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No. 45

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 16, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, our Hope and our Salvation, You go ahead of us and prepare a place for us.

Here on Capitol Hill, there are countless workers, from carpenters to staff writers, pages, clerks, Parliamentarians, electricians, and others, who work behind the scenes.

They prepare this institution for the work of the elected Members of Congress. You alone know the faith and dedication of these silent workers.

Hidden from the public eye, they can never be taken for granted. Each, in his or her own way, serves the Nation and, through their faithfulness, gives You glory.

Bless them, Lord, their work and their families. Hear their prayers and reward them with Your love and compassion, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker, The Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 13, 2009, at 9:09 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 338.

That the Senate passed S. 39.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 37.

Appointments:

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

THE DEMOCRAT BUDGET: TAXING, SPENDING, AND BORROWING TOO MUCH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

Last week we talked about the massive increase in government spending President Obama is planning, the largest since World War II.

This week we will tell you how they plan to pay for all this new government spending—with the largest tax increase in American history.

The Democrats' budget will raise taxes by \$1.4 trillion on American families and businesses over the next 10

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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years. President Obama promised a tax cut for most Americans, but he raises energy taxes on 100 percent of Americans. The Democrats' budget will put a new tax on charitable giving that could cost American charities as much as \$16 billion a year. This will harm numerous organizations at a time when many of these groups are now struggling with the economic downturn.

This is the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. We need to stop this spending, taxing, and borrowing.

CONGRATULATING THE ARKANSAS EDUCATION TELEVISION NETWORK

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Arkansas Educational Television Network.

This important resource for Arkansans was recently recognized for its commitment to education by the Corporation For Public Broadcasting, awarding AETN with a My Source Community Impact Award for Education for its Spring Break Family Day that was designed to encourage children to learn and be physically active through PBS characters, educational games, crafts, and contests.

I am proud to support this fine organization and its mission. AETN offers lifelong learning opportunities to our community and provides programming and services that enrich the lives of Arkansans. For its innovative efforts and committed response to the diverse educational needs of our community, it is clear AETN is deserving of this honor.

With the help of organizations like this, our community is building a brighter future for our children. I am glad to see that this station, which plays such an important role in our State, has been recognized on the national level. I commend the employees for their good work and wish them continued success for the 2009 Spring Break Family Day.

WE SHOULD PRAISE, NOT INSULT, LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Wall Street Journal recently reported that Speaker PELOSI called work site arrests and deportation of illegal workers "un-American."

That's quite a powerful word: "un-American." And it's quite a spectacle to have the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives call the actions of our law enforcement men and women "un-American."

We should praise them, not insult them, for enforcing our immigration laws.

Twelve million Americans are out of work. Seven million illegal workers

hold jobs that should go to citizens and legal immigrant workers.

Let's let the American people decide what is "un-American." We should not criticize law enforcement personnel. Instead, we should be grateful for the job they do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS, JR. POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 987) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 987

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS, JR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the consideration of H.R. 987, a bill to designate the United States postal facility located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office.

Introduced by Representative JASON ALTMIRE on February 11, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by a voice vote, H.R. 987 enjoys the support of the entire Pennsylvania House delegation.

As recently noted in the Ellwood City Ledger, John Scott Challis, Jr., "came into this world fighting." Only 2 days after his birth on December 16, 1989, John was helicoptered from The Medical Center in Beaver County to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he spent 16 days in hospital care and received lifesaving surgery.

As his beloved family and friends in Beaver County, and as many of us across the Nation well know, John never stopped fighting throughout his young life, even after being diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma, an adult form of liver cancer, at the age of 16. John's response to his initial diagnosis was indicative of his eternal determination and resolve, as well as a reflection of his own personal motto of "courage and believe equals life."

In April of 2008, John learned that his cancer had spread and that, most likely, he had only a few months to live. Nevertheless, John never ceased to live his life to the fullest and do what he loved most, which was spending time with his family and friends and playing and following the game of baseball.

On April 14, 2008, John first received national attention when he was able to pinch-hit for his beloved Freedom High School baseball team in a game against Aliquippa High. John cracked the first-pitch fastball into the outfield for an RBI single, and upon making it to first base proudly exclaimed to everyone, "I did it, I did it."

The following month, John graduated with his senior class. And in June of last year, John was able to take a family vacation with his devoted parents, Scott and Gina, and his younger sister, Lexie. He also visited the Pittsburgh Pirates Clubhouse and reminded the players to cherish the game of baseball and, of course, to cherish life.

Regrettably, John lost his battle with cancer in August of 2008. However, his memory and inspirational message will never be forgotten. In John's honor, the John Challis Courage For Life Foundation was established in 2008. The organization is dedicated to providing sports opportunities to student athletes with life-threatening illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that we can further serve to honor John's life through the passage of this legislation before us. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 987.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of designating the facility of the United States Postal Service at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, the John Scott Challis, Jr., Post Office.

And I particularly agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts and share his belief that courage plus believe equals life. This simple but profound equation is more than an inspirational quote. It's a testament to the character and the life of its creator, John Challis. Born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, John's life was too short, but not without meaning.

Mr. Speaker, often we name post offices after individuals who have lived a long and significant life, sometimes former Members of Congress, Presidents and the like. Today we are naming after someone whose life was cut off altogether too soon. In fact, after only 18 years, it is unusual that we would name a post office after somebody, but John went that extra mile to inspire America, reaching national prominence because, in fact, he would not quit, defying the odds by standing on a baseball field when most would be too weak to get out of bed and making the decision that he was going to live his every dream as best he could.

John did that, and his life will be an inspiration for as long as that plaque shall be at the post office. Today we honor that.

Mr. Speaker, I have been up here for many, many postal namings, and once in a while I get comments from back home saying "why do you spend so much time naming post offices?" And I guess the short answer is, Mr. Speaker, because we can.

But also, the longer answer is because we have so many examples of people like John Challis who, in fact, exemplify all that is good in America. All that gives us hope for the future, all that, in fact, allows us every day to know that through these troubled times, these economic problems, the recession that's before America today, that there are people who get up every morning, no matter how hard it is, and they do the best they can with the time that God gives them and with the power that they have.

John was, in every sense, a survivor, and he is survived by his parents and a younger sister who live on in his memory and who, in fact, will, for the time that this post office is in their town, realize that inspirations are important to America, particularly in difficult times.

So I join with the majority today asking that this unusual naming of a post office be passed because John's life was so special to America, and because, at a time like this, inspiration is important to all.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, before closing, I would like to mention that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) who is the chief sponsor, the lead sponsor of the bill under consideration, has informed me that he is en route. He has informed us that he regrets not being able to be here for this afternoon's discussion but has asked that his support for the bill and the Challis family be known.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to join myself, Representative ALTMIRE and the gentleman from California in supporting H.R. 987.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill to rename the Freedom Post Office honor of John Scott Challis, Jr.

John Challis inspired all of us with his determination to live every single day to the fullest. On June 23, 2006, John was diagnosed with liver cancer. He was only 16 and had just completed sophomore year at Freedom High School.

John and his family had a lot of questions after the cancer diagnosis: questions for the doctors about the disease, his treatment, and how it would impact his life. But, in these most difficult of circumstances, John found answers.

In a Pittsburgh Post Gazette article from May 2008, John's father, Scott Challis, recalls this time: "He's always been one who had to try and find an answer for everything. He wants to figure things out." The article continues, "Through his own thoughts and through his deep Catholic beliefs, John believes he has 'figured it out.' When asked where he gained his wisdom, he answered, 'Through cancer.'"

Despite his illness, John made the most of every day he had. Although he was too ill to play sports, Freedom baseball coach Steve Wetzel invited John to join the team and became one of John's closest friends.

In battling cancer, John had come up with a message: "Courage Plus Believe Equals Life." It was a message that along with his name, he inscribed on the inside of his baseball cap. His teammates followed suit.

Then came the moment John had been waiting for, his opportunity to play. Coach Wetzel asked John to pinch-hit in a game against Aliquippa. John wasted no time. On the first pitch, John hit a single to right field that scored a run.

After the game, John's story and message garnered national attention. He was featured on ESPN, invited to speak at a Pirates game, and watched the Penguins in their Stanley Cup playoff run.

Unfortunately, John lost this battle to cancer on August 19, 2008. But he left us with an important legacy. In his last few months, John was quoted as saying, "Life ain't about how many breaths you take. It's what you do with those breaths."

John was an inspiration to me, to his local community, and to the lives he touched. He will always be remembered.

However, even after his death, his inspiration and work continue. Last summer, John helped to start a foundation, the Courage for Life Foundation, to help other student athletes with life-threatening illnesses be involved in sporting events.

I have a few articles about John's life and his impact on those he touched. I ask unanimous consent to enter them into the RECORD.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Chairman TOWNS, for the opportunity to honor John Challis.

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 4, 2008]

TEEN IS RUNNING OUT OF INNINGS, BUT THE GAME STILL ISN'T OVER

(By Mike White)

The 18-year-old kid dying of cancer gets his wish, a chance to swing a bat maybe one last time in a real baseball game.

He hasn't played in a few years, but he's called on to pinch-hit. His eyes light up at the first pitch and he puts all of his 5-foot-5, 93-pound frame into one mighty swing, making contact and sending a line drive into right field for a single—if he can reach first base. The cancer he's been battling for almost two years has spread to his pelvis, making running nearly impossible.

The kid worries about falling as he hustles down the first-base line. When he gets to the base, he lets out with a yell. "I did it! I did it!"

Safe at first with a hit and an RBI, the kid is hugged by a crying first-base coach. The opposing pitcher takes off his glove, starts applauding and his teammates follow suit. The kid's teammates run onto the field to celebrate.

It sounds like the climax to a heart-tugger movie. But there was no producer or film crew at the game between Freedom and Aliquippa high schools two weeks ago. The scene was as real as the tumors in John Challis' liver and lungs.

John is a kid with cancer, a senior at Freedom in Beaver County who was told a few weeks ago by doctors that cancer was winning and it was close to the end. The disease that started in his liver was now taking over his lungs.

"They said it could be only two months," he said, fighting back tears.

He paused before his seemingly never-ending optimism came through again.

"I told my mom I still think I can get two more years."

But his story isn't about dying. It's about inspiring.

His story, words, actions, beliefs and courage have become known around Freedom and surrounding areas in Beaver County, bringing people together from other communities and other schools.

Three weeks ago, Freedom baseball coach Steve Wetzel organized "Walk For A Champion" on Freedom High's school grounds. The purpose of the walk-a-thon was to raise money for one of John's wishes—a last vacation with his mom, dad and 14-year-old sister, Alexis.

More than 500 people took part, including baseball teams from eight Beaver County high schools and members of Center High School's football team. John also used to play football at Freedom.

Mr. Wetzel, who calls the teen his hero, hoped to raise \$6,000. That total was easily surpassed "and people are still calling with donations," he said.

The family has booked a cruise for June.

THE CHALLIS EFFECT

A Beaver County church had planned a fundraiser, but John and his family asked the church instead to conduct the event and give the money to a fifth-grade boy in Beaver County who has a brain tumor.

"His family can use it more than we can," John said. "That's just common sense. Someone does something good for you, then you help someone else."

Actions and statements like those are what has inspired so many others. All of Aliquippa's baseball players wear John's jersey number "11" on their hats. At the walk-

athon, Aliquippa star athlete Jonathan Baldwin, a Pitt football recruit, presented him with a ball signed by Pitt players.

After the walk, John addressed the crowd. "He spoke from his heart," Mr. Wetzel, the coach, said. "He said, 'I've got two options. I know I'm going to die, so I can either sit at home and feel sorry, or I could spread my message to everybody to live life to the fullest and help those in need.' After hearing that, I don't know if there were many people not crying."

Last Thursday, Beaver pitcher Manny Cutlip tossed a three-hitter against Freedom as John watched in street clothes. After the game, every Beaver player came up to him and shook his hand. Some hugged him and some said they were praying for him. Manny Cutlip asked Mr. Wetzel if he could go to lunch some time with John. It happened the next day.

"I don't know what to say. I just wanted to get to know him better and see if I could learn anything from him to help me in my life," said the young pitcher, an imposing 6-foot-3, 225-pound standout athlete who will play football at IUP.

At lunch, he gave John a new football with a handwritten personal message on it. Part of the message read, "You have touched my heart and I will always look up to you as my role model."

Talk to John and you'll laugh at his sense of humor when he says things such as, "You can't let girls know that you know how to text message because they won't leave you alone."

But listen to his mature views on life and his philosophies . . . and you might cry.

"I used to be afraid, but I'm not afraid of dying now, if that's what you want to know," he said. "Because life ain't about how many breaths you take. It's what you do with those breaths."

FIGURING IT OUT

It's been almost two years since John found out about his cancer. He knows the date like a birthday. June 23, 2006.

He discovered only recently that doctors didn't expect him to last through that first summer. "To me, that's already an accomplishment," he said.

In the first few months after the cancer discovery, John's father, Scott, would get up in the middle of the night, peek into his son's bedroom and see him wide awake, staring at the ceiling.

"He would just be thinking," the elder Challis said. "He's always been one who had to try and find an answer for everything. He wants to figure things out."

Through his own thoughts and through his deep Catholic beliefs, John believes he has "figured it out." He answers questions with maturity, courage and dignity, traits that have become his trademarks.

John requested that his mother, Regina, not be interviewed for this story because it will be too hard for her. He talks to his father about what to do after he dies.

"I sit up with him at night until 1 or 2 in the morning," Scott Challis said. "He'll tell me, 'Dad, when I'm gone, you have to do this or that. You have to watch your weight.' He's worried about my weight. He tells me I have to take care of mom."

"When the doctors told him a few weeks ago about how the cancer was winning, he had a lot of questions about what it was going to be like and about being comfortable. Later on, he broke down with me and you know what he did? He apologized. He was upset because he felt like he was letting everyone down who had been praying for him."

Scott Challis has found talking about his son makes the situation easier to deal with.

But many people like to talk about John. Shawn Lehoccky is a senior and one of Freedom's top athletes. For every football and baseball game, he wears a red wrist band with John's No. 11 on it.

"It seems like everyone in this community knows who he is now and he really has brought so many people together," Shawn said. "He's always on my mind. To see him and what he's going through, I don't know if I could act like that. He said some pretty strong words at that walk-a-thon that you don't hear 17- or 18-year-olds say every day."

John fought back tears a few times during last week's interview.

"Sometimes I cry, but people cry for all different kinds of reasons," he said. "Sometimes I just want to know why, but I think I figured that out. God wanted me to get sick because he knew I was strong enough to handle it. I'm spreading His word and my message. By doing that, I'm doing what God put me here to do."

"It took me about a half year to figure all that out. Now, when I'm able to truly believe it, it makes it easier on me. And when you know other people support what you're thinking, it makes it easier."

When asked where he gained his wisdom, he answered, "Through cancer."

"They say it takes a special person to realize this kind of stuff," he said. "I don't know if I'm special, but it wasn't hard for me. It's just my mind-set. A situation is what you make of it. Not what it makes of you."

He regularly wears his Freedom baseball hat. Under the bill of the cap is his name, plus this line: "COURAGE + BELIEVE = LIFE."

"I guess I can see why people see me as an inspiration," he said. "But why do people think it's so hard to see things the way I do? All I'm doing is making the best of a situation."

John then raises his voice.

"Why can't people just see the best in things? It gets you so much further in life. It's always negative this and negative that. That's all you see and hear."

John tries to keep complaining to a minimum, but he acknowledges his moments of crying.

"If I'm mad at anything in this, it's that I'm not going to be able to have a son, I'm not going to be able to get married and have my own house," he said, fighting back tears again. "Those are the things I'm mad about. But not dying."

THE ROLE OF SPORTS

John loves sports. He is an avid hunter—"got three buck and two doe in the last year," he said.

He played baseball through Pony League and always loved football, despite his small stature. As a sophomore, he started on Freedom's junior varsity team as a slotback and cornerback.

"I was 108 pounds. I had to be the smallest player in the WPIAL," he said with a laugh.

The cancer forced him to stop playing football as a junior.

"But I will never forget," his father said, "when he first got sick he told me, 'Dad, I have to dress for a football game one more time.'"

He got his wish in the final game of his senior season, against Hickory. Coaches let him kick off once. He was supposed to kick and immediately run off the field to avoid danger. Instead, he stayed on the field and got a little excited when the kick returner started heading his way before being tackled.

Later in the game, the coaches put him in for two plays at receiver. Mr. Wetzel and others who saw the game proudly tell how, on one play, John tried to block a defender, fell down, but got up and pushed another defender.

Mr. Wetzel said seeing John play in that last football game, doesn't compare to seeing his hit against Aliquippa in that April 14 baseball game. John vividly remembers the details leading up to the hit. When he walked into the batter's box, he saw Aliquippa's catcher wearing a protective mask with the initials "J.C." and the number "11."

"I just looked at him and said, 'Nice mask.'"

He then noticed an Aliquippa coach saying something to the pitcher.

"I'm thinking, 'If they're going to walk me or throw easy to me, I don't want it handed to me,'" he said. "But sure enough, he threw me a fastball. That's what made it so good. . . . There were only about 20 people there watching, but everyone was cheering."

Mr. Wetzel said: "We made it to the state [PIAA] playoffs two years ago and I thought that was the best feeling. I got to play in WPIAL championships at Blackhawk as a player. But that day, that hit, that moment . . . That was the best feeling I've ever had in sports."

Six days later, Freedom played a game at PNC Park. John attended the game, but had an IV line in his arm for a treatment he was getting. He took out the IV line and asked Mr. Wetzel if he could pinch-hit again.

"Unbelievable. He told me the doctor said he could take it out for up to seven hours," Mr. Wetzel said. "He told me he just wanted to be a normal kid one more time."

So Mr. Wetzel let him pinch-hit. This time he struck out.

They have a unique coach-player relationship. Mr. Wetzel invited John to be part of the team a year ago and John calls the coach one of his best friends. They talk every day, at least on a cell phone, and go to lunch together once a week.

"The kid has changed my life," Mr. Wetzel said. "I cry for him just about every day. I'm 32 and I'm getting married in September. You know what he told me the other day? He told me to save him a seat in the front row of the church, because even if he's not there, he'll be there in spirit."

"He just keeps doing things and saying things that are just unbelievable. I know our team will never forget this season because of Johnny."

The two want to start a foundation in John's name for young cancer patients.

"Even if [the foundation] is something that can help only one kid or one family, to see people in a different way like I have, it will be worth it," John said. "Maybe it will help younger people who haven't gotten to see the finer things in life that I got to see."

John plans to attend Freedom's prom May 9 and plans to graduate in June. As John ended this interview, he said he wondered how his story will come out in the newspaper.

"When you write this, don't overthink things," he said. "I've learned that. There are a lot of unanswered questions in this world and the reason they're unanswered is because if you think about them too much, you're always going to come up with different answers. So don't confuse yourself and think about this too much."

CHALLIS FOUNDATION AIMS TO HELP OTHER SICK KIDS

(By Elizabeth Merrill)

The idea came over lobster bites and potato soup. It was a good day for John Challis, because he cleaned his plate and didn't become violently ill. Challis has defied grim cancer prognoses for two years, because, he says, he has so much to look forward to.

"God still has a mission for John," says Steve Wetzel, his baseball coach at Freedom (Pa.) High School. "I truly believe that. John Challis isn't going anywhere. He still has work to do on earth."

Later this month, Challis and Wetzel will officially start the John Challis Courage for Life Foundation to assist seriously ill children. The foundation will arrange sports trips for sick children to meet their favorite athletes. Eventually, Challis wants to set up a message board for kids to converse with each other about treatments and their struggles with being sick.

Challis has hobnobbed with the A-list of professional sports lately, mingling with everyone from Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to former Penguins hockey great Mario Lemieux to Cleveland Indians skipper Eric Wedge. They know about his inspirational story, and how he got his first varsity baseball hit in April despite being sapped by cancer treatments and weighing just 93 pounds.

Challis says life has been a mix of good and bad days, and he hit a very rough patch a few weeks ago. Wracked with pain from a radiation treatment, he developed severe swelling around his waist and legs. One night, he called Wetzel and said, "Coach, this has been the worst couple of days. I feel terrible. But I'm not going to stop fighting."

A week later, Challis graduated from high school. He hopes to go to college this fall, and is putting together a scrapbook of his summer with Wetzel. They drove to Cleveland for an Indians game recently, and Challis napped on the way home. Normally, Wetzel says,

Challis gets sick during a long, 13-hour day. But on this day, he stayed strong.

"Before the game, he said, 'It's amazing to see two teams I haven't seen before. That's going to be great, Coach. But the best thing is that it's just going to be me and you.'"

"We saved our ticket stubs," Wetzel says. "That meant the world to me. That makes my life all worthwhile."

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, June 26, 2008]

AILING FREEDOM YOUNGSTER URGES PIRATES: 'HAVE FUN'

(By Dejan Kovacevic)

John Challis shakes hands last night with one of his baseball heroes, Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter.

John Challis, the Freedom youngster who has gained national attention for his battle with cancer, wrote a message on the eraser board of the Pirates' clubhouse yesterday afternoon.

"Have fun," it said. "The reason why we play ball is fun."

He signed his name underneath.

Challis, 18, also delivered a brief speech in the closed clubhouse to all players and staff, after which everyone in the room stood and applauded. From there, he spent extra time with first baseman Adam LaRoche to "talk about hunting and stuff," then sat in manager John Russell's office—his chair, actually—during Russell's afternoon news conference.

Asked to compare his battle to those faced daily by Major League Baseball players, Challis laughed and replied: "Baseball's not that complicated. You swing the bat, and you hit the ball. You don't worry about your stats. You just play the game."

Of his fate, he said: "God thinks I'm strong enough to handle it. He's just using me to spread His message."

Before Challis took his seats for the game, he also met with "the player I really want to meet" when he spoke with New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter during batting practice.

"If we can all show the courage and faith that John has, or even half of it, we'd all be better off," Russell said. "The unselfishness that's a part of his life should be a lesson to all of us."

Challis announced the creation of his Courage For Life Foundation to benefit high

school students with terminal illnesses. The Web site is www.courageforlifefoundation.com.

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Aug. 20, 2008]

OBITUARY: JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS: TEEN DELIVERED MESSAGE OF HOPE WITH CANCER FIGHT (By Mike White)

Over the past few months, John Challis watched a Penguins playoff game with Mario Lemieux, was featured on ESPN television, addressed the Pirates before a game and spent an afternoon with Alex Rodriguez at the New York Yankee's penthouse in Manhattan.

Although he rubbed elbows with the rich and famous, John likely will be remembered for the many people he touched—and for his inspiring actions and words.

John's two-year battle with liver and lung cancer ended yesterday afternoon, when he died at his home in Freedom, Beaver County. He was 18.

On a warm June afternoon, John did one of his final interviews. Lying on a couch in his living room, he spoke about his young life. He struggled to keep his eyes open, but talked about how, all of a sudden in the past few months, he had become something of a national celebrity.

Not long ago, John was simply a teenager battling a terminal illness. Then a base hit in a Freedom High School baseball game led to a May story in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which led to national attention, on television and radio and in other newspapers.

The attention is what John wanted. He had decided that through his fight with cancer, he could spread a message and help others.

"Everybody is scared. It's not normal to not be scared," John said of his plight. "But I'm not scared as much now. I have letters and other things from people, telling me how I've helped so many people in numerous ways. That makes me feel good."

In the corner of the family living room were two boxes of letters and cards from well-wishers and people who wrote to let him know they were inspired by his story. His family also has two binders filled with hundreds of e-mails from people who said John had impacted their lives.

Near the couch in the Challis home, a folded American flag sat on a chair. A Navy pilot flew the flag over Iraq with John's name on it and sent it to the family.

"I just want to say thanks to the people for keeping me going," John said. "All them little cards and stuff I got, keeps me going day by day. To know I'm going downhill a little bit, it doesn't bother me because I've helped so many people. Since I've helped so many people, this is easier to handle."

Courage + believe = life.

Life ain't about how many breaths you take. It's what you do with those breaths.

What teenager comes up with such sayings? John Challis did, and they became his personal trademarks. A baseball glove company sent John a black glove with "Courage + believe = life" embossed in the leather along with John's name.

"We would get things almost every day from people all over the country," said Scott Challis, John's father.

When John attended a Yankees game in late June, he had a news conference, surrounded by more than 20 reporters and photographers.

"People would sometimes call, too, just wanting to talk to him," his father said. "Some wanted to come meet him. It was amazing. I guess he touched so many people."

John was never more than an average athlete, at best. Because of the cancer, he couldn't play sports as a junior or senior at Freedom, except for a few plays in the final

football game of Freedom's 2007 season. Then in April came "the hit." John hadn't played baseball in a few years but he wanted to be on Freedom's team. He wanted a chance to hit one time, and Freedom coach Steve Wetzel granted the wish, pinch-hitting John in a game against Aliquippa.

In a storybook moment, John lined a run-scoring single to right field on the first pitch. Although he had trouble running, John made it to first base, yelling "I did it. I did it."

In May, John and Mr. Wetzel were guests on Dan Patrick's national radio show. ESPN sportscaster Scott Van Pelt devoted a segment of his national radio show to John's story.

How did a teenager with a heavy Pittsburgh accent from a small Western Pennsylvania town become a national story? How did he tug at so many people's emotions from so far away?

"There is just so much these days with the Internet, and Web sites, and blogs, but this was a story about a kid who was just so real that it grabs you," Mr. Van Pelt said. "Then, you had sports involved in it."

"I know Pittsburgh is probably all concerned about what the Steelers are going to be like this fall and how maybe the Penguins could've done things differently in the Stanley Cup, but this kid's story was just so different. It's a tremendous story. Actually, it's a bad story because it has a horrible ending."

"The story that [the Post-Gazette] did started the fire for this kid. If maybe I threw another log on to help get it going more, then great, because it deserved to be a bonfire."

John lived long enough to reach some personal goals. He graduated with his senior class. One of his last requests was to take a cruise with his father, his mother, Gina, and sister, Lexie, and they did that in June.

The Pirates brought him to a game later in June, gave him a uniform and let him address the team in the clubhouse. He told the players not to worry so much about their statistics and have fun. John told the Pirates to cherish the game—and life.

Mr. Wetzel recalled John's words: "You never know what life might bring you. You might have a few sniffles and think it's not a big thing. Then you go to the doctor the next day and they tell you that you have a 10-pound tumor in your stomach."

"Some of the Pirates got emotional," Mr. Wetzel said.

First baseman Adam LaRoche stayed in touch with John after his visit.

"It makes you realize how short life is and how unfair it can be," Mr. LaRoche said yesterday from the clubhouse in St. Louis, before the Pirates played the Cardinals. "I think what's cool is that, even with what he had, he chose to make the best of it and touch a lot of lives that he wouldn't have if this hadn't happened to him. He got the bad end of the deal, but he touched a lot of people. For sure, he touched the 25 people in here."

John also spent some time with the Tampa Bay Rays when the team was in town to play the Pirates.

"Their manager, Joe Maddon, called and said he saw the story on John on ESPN and he was just in his hotel room in tears," Mr. Wetzel said. "He said he just wanted to meet John. Coach Maddon has really become touched by John and his message."

Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Maddon now talk a few times a week. Mr. Wetzel said Mr. Maddon now puts "C + B = L" on every lineup card that he hands to umpires before games.

John's favorite moment in the past few months was the trip to New York for a Yankees game.

"Just because it was with my dad," John said. "It was a good time because we both got to experience it, and it felt like something not just for me, but something he enjoyed as well."

The afternoon at Mr. Rodriguez's penthouse was memorable.

"No Madonna," John said with a laugh.

John was never shy about expressing his feelings on a subject and was always known to ask questions. His father laughs at a couple questions John asked as Mr. Rodriguez was showing them around his home.

"Now John had no idea about these Madonna and A-Rod rumors [about an affair], and John goes, 'So, where's your wife?' I couldn't believe it. But A-Rod just said she was in Florida at their other home with their kids.

"Then John asked him if his wife worked. John wasn't trying to be smart. He was just curious. He told John that she didn't work, but that she had a psychology degree."

John faced his death with courage, dignity, a never-quit attitude and an awareness that was hard to fathom.

John's mother told of a nurse who started coming to the family home in June. "The first time she was here, John said, 'I know why you're here. You're here to make me comfortable in my last weeks. But it could be more than a few weeks, right?'"

"The kid was just unbelievable," Mr. Wetzel said. "His attitude and messages I think changed how some people looked at their lives. He changed how I went about life.

"I feel like a piece of my heart is gone now. The thing I'll miss most is his smile. He had a smile that could light up a room."

John said his Catholic faith and belief in God got stronger through his illness.

One of the things that made John happy in recent months was the start of a foundation that will raise money to help other sick teenagers enjoy a sports experience. The foundation was the idea of John and Mr. Wetzel.

"If I can help someone else going through this, then that would make me feel good," John said.

The foundation has a Web site—www.courageforlifefoundation.org—where donations can be made.

When asked a few weeks ago how he would like to be remembered, John said, "I could see people having some beers and hopefully remembering how I always tried my best, no matter what I was doing. That's my message—just for people to always do their best, no matter what they're doing or how stupid it might seem. And no matter what, there will always be a reward, no matter how small it is."

In addition to his parents, John is survived by his younger sister, Lexie.

Visitation will be tomorrow and Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at Noll Funeral Home, 333 Third St., Beaver. A Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday in SS. Peter & Paul Church, Beaver. Burial will follow at Beaver Cemetery.

The family asks memorial contributions be made to John Challis Courage For Life Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Monaca, PA 15061.

Also, there will be a golf outing to benefit John's foundation Monday at Chartiers Country Club. For more information, go to www.courageforlifefoundation.org.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1217) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1217

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present for consideration H.R. 1217, which designates the United States postal facility located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building.

Introduced by Representative W. TODD AKIN on February 26, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by a voice vote, H.R. 1217 enjoys the support, the unanimous support of the entire Missouri House delegation.

A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter Joseph Navarro bravely served with the United States Army's 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

On December 13, 2005, Specialist Navarro and three fellow members of his unit were killed in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Humvee while the soldiers were conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Navarro, a member of the United States Air Force Junior ROTC Program, graduated from Lafayette High School in 2003. He subsequently decided to forego his acceptance at Truman State University in order to join the United States Army.

As noted by his father, Jose, a retired chief petty officer for the United States Navy, Specialist Navarro was a strong-willed young man and a dedicated soldier who cared for the soldiers that he worked with and would do anything for his friends. Mr. Navarro also recounts that his son wanted to try and make a difference, and that being a soldier was what making a difference is in this time of our lives.

Specialist Navarro's dedication to his unit and his country was evidenced in July of 2005 when he returned home to Wildwood to attend the funeral of his younger brother, Daniel, who had been killed in a car accident. Specialist Navarro's mother, Rowena, begged her son not to return to Iraq in the summer. As Mrs. Navarro recalls her son telling her, "Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody's taking my place, and that's not fair. They'd do the same thing for me."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Peter J. Navarro's life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who have served and continue to serve our Nation at home and abroad. It is my hope that we can further honor his service through the passage of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1217 and dedicate the Manchester Road Post Office in Ballwin, Missouri, after this outstanding American soldier.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building. As you may know, in the previous Congress, we had voted to name this post office and, unfortunately, the term ended before we were able to pass this.

But the failure of the Senate to act should not diminish what happened in the summer of 2005 when Specialist Peter J. Navarro returned home from duty in Iraq to join his family at their home in Wildwood, Missouri, not for a joyful reunion, but to bury his younger brother, who had died in a car accident.

After Daniel's funeral, Peter's mother, distraught over the loss of her middle son, begged him not to return to Iraq. This young man's response to his grieving mother is nothing short of heroic. He had to go back. He said,

"Mom, they would be a man short. Somebody's taking my place, and that's not fair."

□ 1615

This selfless devotion to his comrades and his country exemplifies the character of this tremendous young man.

Forgoing his acceptance to Truman State University, Specialist Navarro enlisted in the Army right after his graduation from Lafayette High School in 2003.

This young man believed in the mission, men, and country he served. Tragically, on December 13, 2005, just 1 month before he was scheduled to end his deployment, Specialist Navarro lost his life while on patrol in Iraq.

Specialist Navarro has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for his service. Specialist Navarro's father, a veteran of the Navy, remembers his strong-willed son with admiration: "He died because he was trying to make a difference, and being a soldier was what was making a difference in this time of life."

Like many young men and women in uniform today serving our country, Specialist Navarro in fact has made the decision to go into harm's way to help another people far away—people he never met, people he knows nothing about, and people who he only knows he's going because our country is there and because we are trying to make a difference.

I join with the majority today and with Congressman AKIN, who could not be here, for passage of his bill, in saying this is the right name in this town for the right individual who gave so completely to the American people, and I urge support.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1217, a bill I introduced to honor the life of Peter J. Navarro by designating the post office in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building." A resident of Wildwood, Missouri, Specialist Peter J. Navarro was part of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. On December 13, 2005 Specialist Navarro was one of four soldiers killed when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

A graduate of Lafayette High School, Peter declined his acceptance at Truman State University so he could join the Army right after graduation.

When Peter returned home for his younger brother's funeral, he was faced with the undeniable risks of serving his country. However, he returned to Iraq telling friends and family, "They need me there."

Peter was a dedicated soldier, willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and the men and women who reside there. As Peter's father, Jose Navarro said, "He cared for the soldiers he worked with. He would do anything for his friends. And he told me he believed in what the mission was."

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq; it is a privilege to stand

here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Peter's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our nation has to offer. His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing put themselves in harms way for freedom's cause.

Our nation will be forever indebted to Specialist Peter Navarro. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Peter.

Vote "yes" on H.R. 1217.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) for authoring the measure at hand. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1217.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1284) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1284

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 1284, a bill to designate the United States Postal Facility located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office Building."

Introduced by my friend, Representative GENE TAYLOR, on March 3, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 10, 2009, by voice vote, H.R. 1284 enjoys the support of the entire Mississippi House delegation.

Born in Neely, Mississippi, on November 20, 1927, Major Ed W. Freeman proudly served his country in the United States Army as a fixed and rotary wing aircraft pilot. On July 16, 2001, President George W. Bush presented Major Freeman with the Medal of Honor—the United States military's highest commendation—in recognition of his brave actions during the Vietnam War.

Major Freeman began his distinguished military career at the age of 17, with 2 years of service in the United States Navy during World War II. He subsequently joined the United States Army, serving in Germany for 4 years before being deployed to Korea.

Notably, Major Freeman received his well-familiar nickname of "Too Tall" after being told that he was too tall to serve as an Army pilot. However, he quickly dispelled this notion by becoming one of the Army's finest helicopter pilots.

Major Freeman's bravery, dedication, and flying skills were never more evident than on November 14, 1965, during the battle of Ia Drang, at Landing Zone X-Ray, in Vietnam. As noted in his Medal of Honor citation, Major Freeman "distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity" as a member of Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. Specifically, as a flight leader and second-in-command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, then-Captain Freeman supported a heavily engaged American battalion at the Landing Zone in the Ia Drang Valley by "flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire, time after time, delivering critically needed ammunitions, water, and medical supplies to the besieged battalion."

Additionally, Major Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions which resulted in the lifesaving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers. Major Freeman's Medal of Honor citation goes on to note that his "selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary

perseverance, and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers."

Major Freeman's heroic acts in the Ia Drang Valley were subsequently immortalized in the Mel Gibson film *We Were Soldiers*.

While he retired from the military in 1967 and moved to Idaho with his beloved wife, Barbara, and sons, Mike and Doug, Major Freeman did not give up flying—as he went to work for the Department of the Interior's Office of Aircraft Services. Upon his official retirement in 1991, Major Freeman had logged more than 25,000 hours of flying time.

Regrettably, Major Freeman passed away in August of last year at the age of 80.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor Major Freeman and his service to our country through the passage of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1284, and dedicating the McLain Post Office after this distinguished veteran.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1284, to designate the facility of the United States postal service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office."

Major Freeman perhaps balances the three initiatives here today—a young soldier; an inspirational young man who died far too young of cancer; and, thirdly, a man who lived a full and complete life but who gave and gave and gave.

Major Freeman was born on November 20, 1927, in Mississippi. Before graduating from high school, as many of his generation, often called America's finest generation, young Freeman enlisted in the Navy, and served 2 years before returning home to Mississippi, graduating from high school, and deciding to return to the military; this time, to the Army.

During the Korean War, Ed Freeman rose to the rank of master sergeant in an Army engineer unit, and did his battles in many places, including the battle immortalized as Pork Chop Hill, and was then awarded a Battlefield Commission.

As was earlier mentioned, Major Freeman was too tall to be initially allowed to be a pilot. At 6'4", he was certainly a big target for the infantry, I might say, too. But with his perseverance, he eventually attended flight school until the regulation changed in 1955. But he kept that nickname, "Too Tall" Freeman. He carried it through the rest of his military career.

After winning his wings, Major Freeman began to fly fixed-wing aircraft and later switched to helicopters. In 1965, he was sent to Vietnam and served in Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, of the famous 1st Cavalry Division.

On November 14, 1965, Major Freeman's helicopters carried a battalion into battle in the Ia Drang Valley, which became the first major confrontation between large U.S. forces and North Vietnamese regulars. For that, he received a number of commendations for his willingness to fly into the face of this heavy combat while dealing with casualties, going in and out and running low on supplies and fuel.

Major Freeman volunteered to fly into the battle area, risking his own life, delivering critically needed ammunition, water, and medical supplies to a battalion on the ground.

In all, Major Freeman carried out 14 separate rescue missions. For these actions, Major Freeman was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on July 16, 2001, by President George W. Bush. A few months later, Major Freeman visited the White House again for the premier of *We Were Soldiers*, a 2002 feature film that depicted his role in the battle that day.

We will miss "Too Tall." We will miss his generation.

Mr. Freeman died in Boise, Idaho, on August 20, 2008, from complications of Parkinson's disease, and is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara Freeman, and his sons, Mike and Doug.

Mr. Speaker, naming a post office after a man who gave and gave and gave to his country the way Major Freeman did is little enough to do. Today, recognizing his life and contribution, too, is little enough to do for one of the last of America's finest generations.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. I want to thank the gentlemen from Massachusetts and California for their very timely consideration of this. I want to thank all the members of the Mississippi House delegation for cosponsoring it.

Gentlemen, there really isn't anything that remains to be said. I think you all did a phenomenal job of honoring Ed Freeman's life. The only thing I would ask is that his Medal of Honor citation be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you for the timely consideration.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION, CAPTAIN ED W. FREEMAN, UNITED STATES ARMY

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Captain Ed W. Freeman, United States Army, distinguished himself by numerous acts of conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary intrepidity on 14 November 1965 while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). As a flight leader and second in command of a 16-helicopter lift unit, he supported a heavily engaged American infantry battalion at Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The unit

was almost out of ammunition after taking some of the heaviest casualties of the war, fighting off a relentless attack from a highly motivated, heavily armed enemy force. When the infantry commander closed the helicopter landing zone due to intense direct enemy fire, Captain Freeman risked his own life by flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire time after time, delivering critically needed ammunition, water and medical supplies to the besieged battalion. His flights had a direct impact on the battle's outcome by providing the engaged units with timely supplies of ammunition critical to their survival, without which they would almost surely have gone down, with much greater loss of life. After medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the area due to intense enemy fire, Captain Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions, providing life-saving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers—some of whom would not have survived had he not acted. All flights were made into a small emergency landing zone within 100 to 200 meters of the defensive perimeter where heavily committed units were perilously holding off the attacking elements. Captain Freeman's selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary perseverance and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers. Captain Freeman's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would urge the passage of H.R. 1284, recognizing a Medal of Honor winner, a great American, one who has lived a long life and contributed a great deal to our country. Again, I urge support for H.R. 1284.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I simply want to thank Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi and, again, I want to urge all Members to support H.R. 1284.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 987, H.R. 1217, and H.R. 1284, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

JOHN SCOTT CHALLIS, JR. POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 987.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—384

Abercrombie	Burton (IN)	Dent
Ackerman	Butterfield	Diaz-Balart, L.
Aderholt	Buyer	Diaz-Balart, M.
Adler (NJ)	Calvert	Dicks
Akin	Camp	Dingell
Alexander	Campbell	Doggett
Altmire	Cantor	Donnelly (IN)
Andrews	Capito	Driehaus
Arcuri	Capps	Duncan
Austria	Capuano	Edwards (MD)
Baca	Cardoza	Edwards (TX)
Bachmann	Carmahan	Ehlers
Bachus	Carney	Ellison
Baird	Carson (IN)	Ellsworth
Baldwin	Carter	Engel
Barrett (SC)	Cassidy	Eshoo
Barrow	Castle	Etheridge
Bartlett	Castor (FL)	Fallin
Barton (TX)	Chaffetz	Farr
Bean	Chandler	Fattah
Becerra	Childers	Filner
Berkley	Clarke	Fleming
Berman	Clay	Forbes
Berry	Cleaver	Fortenberry
Biggert	Clyburn	Foster
Billbray	Coble	Fox
Billirakis	Coffman (CO)	Frank (MA)
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Cole	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Fudge
Blackburn	Connolly (VA)	Garrett (NJ)
Blumenauer	Cooper	Gerlach
Blunt	Costa	Giffords
Boccieri	Costello	Gonzalez
Boehner	Courtney	Goodlatte
Bonner	Crenshaw	Gordon (TN)
Bono Mack	Crowley	Granger
Boozman	Cuellar	Graves
Boswell	Culberson	Grayson
Boyd	Cummings	Green, Al
Brady (PA)	Dahlkemper	Green, Gene
Brady (TX)	Davis (AL)	Griffith
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Guthrie
Bright	Davis (IL)	Hall (TX)
Broun (GA)	Davis (KY)	Halvorson
Brown (SC)	Davis (TN)	Hare
Brown-Waite,	Deal (GA)	Harman
Ginny	DeFazio	Harper
Buchanan	DeGette	Hastings (FL)
Burgess	DeLauro	Hastings (WA)

Heinrich	Heller	Matsui
Hensarling	Hensarling	McCarthy (CA)
Herger	Herger	McCarthy (NY)
Herseth Sandlin	Herseth Sandlin	McClintock
Higgins	Higgins	McCollum
Hill	Hill	McCotter
Himes	Himes	McDermott
Hinojosa	Hinojosa	McGovern
Hirono	Hirono	McHenry
Hodes	Hodes	McHugh
Hoekstra	Hoekstra	McIntyre
Holden	Holden	McKeon
Holt	Holt	McMahon
Honda	Honda	McMorris
Hoyer	Hoyer	Rodgers
Hunter	Hunter	McNerney
Inglis	Inglis	Meek (FL)
Inslee	Inslee	Meeks (NY)
Israel	Israel	Melancon
Issa	Issa	Mica
Jackson (IL)	Jackson (IL)	Michaud
Jackson-Lee	Jackson-Lee	Miller (FL)
(TX)	(TX)	Miller (MI)
Jenkins	Jenkins	Miller (NC)
Johnson (GA)	Johnson (GA)	Miller, George
Johnson, E. B.	Johnson, E. B.	Minnick
Johnson, Sam	Johnson, Sam	Mitchell
Jones	Jones	Mollohan
Kagen	Kagen	Moore (KS)
Kanjorski	Kanjorski	Moore (WI)
Kaptur	Kaptur	Moran (KS)
Kildee	Kildee	Murphy (CT)
Kilpatrick (MI)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Murphy, Patrick
Kilroy	Kilroy	Murphy, Tim
Kind	Kind	Murtha
King (IA)	King (IA)	Nadler (NY)
King (NY)	King (NY)	Napolitano
Kingston	Kingston	Neal (MA)
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Neugebauer
Kissell	Kissell	Nunes
Klein (FL)	Klein (FL)	Nye
Kline (MN)	Kline (MN)	Oberstar
Kosmas	Kosmas	Obey
Kratovil	Kratovil	Olver
Kucinich	Kucinich	Ortiz
Lamborn	Lamborn	Pallone
Lance	Lance	Pastor (AZ)
Langevin	Langevin	Paul
Larsen (WA)	Larsen (WA)	Paulsen
Larson (CT)	Larson (CT)	Payne
Latham	Latham	Perlmutter
LaTourette	LaTourette	Perriello
Latta	Latta	Peters
Lee (CA)	Lee (CA)	Peterson
Lee (NY)	Lee (NY)	Petri
Levin	Levin	Pingree (ME)
Lewis (CA)	Lewis (CA)	Pitts
Lewis (GA)	Lewis (GA)	Platts
Linder	Linder	Poe (TX)
Lipinski	Lipinski	Polis (CO)
LoBiondo	LoBiondo	Pomeroy
Loebach	Loebach	Posey
Loftgren, Zoe	Loftgren, Zoe	Price (GA)
Lowe	Lowe	Price (NC)
Lujan	Lujan	Rahall
Lummis	Lummis	Rangel
Lungren, Daniel	Lungren, Daniel	Rehberg
E.	E.	Reichert
Lynch	Lynch	Reyes
Mack	Mack	Richardson
Maffei	Maffei	Rodriguez
Maloney	Maloney	Roe (TN)
Manzullo	Manzullo	Rogers (AL)
Marchant	Marchant	Rogers (MI)
Markey (CO)	Markey (CO)	Rooney
Markey (MA)	Markey (MA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Marshall	Marshall	Ross
Massa	Massa	Rothman (NJ)
Matheson	Matheson	Roybal-Allard
		Royce

NOT VOTING—47

Boren	Hall (NY)	Radanovich
Boucher	Hinchey	Rogers (KY)
Boustany	Johnson (IL)	Rohrabacher
Brown, Corrine	Jordan (OH)	Roskam
Cao	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda
Conyers	Kirk	T.
Delahunt	Lucas	Shea-Porter
Doyle	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus
Dreier	McCauley	Smith (WA)
Emerson	Miller, Gary	Speier
Flake	Moran (VA)	Stark
Gallegly	Myrick	Thompson (PA)
Gingrey (GA)	Olson	Turner
Gohmert	Pascarella	Walz
Grijalva	Pence	Wamp
Gutierrez	Putnam	Welch

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1217.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 126]

YEAS—384

Abercrombie	Carney	Forbes
Ackerman	Carson (IN)	Fortenberry
Aderholt	Carter	Poster
Adler (NJ)	Cassidy	Fox
Akin	Castle	Frank (MA)
Alexander	Castor (FL)	Franks (AZ)
Altmire	Chaffetz	Frelinghuysen
Andrews	Chandler	Fudge
Arcuri	Childers	Garrett (NJ)
Austria	Clarke	Gerlach
Baca	Clay	Giffords
Bachmann	Cleaver	Gonzalez
Bachus	Clyburn	Goodlatte
Baird	Coble	Gordon (TN)
Baldwin	Coffman (CO)	Granger
Barrett (SC)	Cohen	Graves
Barrow	Cole	Grayson
Bartlett	Conaway	Green, Al
Barton (TX)	Connolly (VA)	Green, Gene
Bean	Conyers	Griffith
Becerra	Cooper	Guthrie
Berkley	Costa	Hall (TX)
Berman	Costello	Halvorson
Berry	Courtney	Hare
Biggert	Crenshaw	Harman
Billbray	Crowley	Harper
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Hastings (FL)
Bishop (NY)	Culberson	Hastings (WA)
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Heinrich
Blackburn	Dahlkemper	Heller
Blumenauer	Davis (AL)	Hensarling
Blunt	Davis (CA)	Herger
Boccieri	Davis (IL)	Herseth Sandlin
Boehner	Davis (KY)	Higgins
Bonner	Davis (TN)	Hill
Bono Mack	Deal (GA)	Himes
Boozman	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Boswell	DeGette	Hirono
Boyd	DeLauro	Hodes
Brady (PA)	Dent	Hoekstra
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Holden
Braley (IA)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Holt
Bright	Dicks	Honda
Broun (GA)	Dingell	Hoyer
Brown (SC)	Doggett	Hunter
Brown-Waite,	Donnelly (IN)	Inglis
Ginny	Driehaus	Inslee
Buchanan	Duncan	Israel
Burgess	Edwards (MD)	Issa
Burton (IN)	Edwards (TX)	Jackson (IL)
Butterfield	Ehlers	Jackson-Lee
Buyer	Ellison	(TX)
Calvert	Ellsworth	Jenkins
Camp	Engel	Johnson (GA)
Campbell	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Cantor	Etheridge	Johnson, Sam
Capito	Fallin	Jones
Capps	Farr	Kagen
Capuano	Fattah	Kanjorski
Cardoza	Filner	Kaptur
Carnahan	Fleming	Kildee

Kilpatrick (MI) Miller (NC) Schock
 Kilroy Miller, George Schrader
 Kind Minnick Schwartz
 King (IA) Mitchell Scott (GA)
 King (NY) Mollohan Scott (VA)
 Kingston Moore (KS) Sensenbrenner
 Kirkpatrick (AZ) Moore (WI) Serrano
 Kissell Moran (KS) Sessions
 Klein (FL) Murphy (CT) Sestak
 Kline (MN) Murphy, Patrick Shadegg
 Kosmas Murphy, Tim Sherman
 Kratovil Murtha Shimkus
 Kucinich Nadler (NY) Shuler
 Lamborn Napolitano Shuster
 Lance Neal (MA) Simpson
 Langevin Neugebauer Sires
 Larsen (WA) Nunes Skelton
 Larson (CT) Nye Slaughter
 Latham Oberstar Smith (NE)
 LaTourette Obey Smith (NJ)
 Latta Oliver Smith (TX)
 Lee (CA) Ortiz Snyder
 Lee (NY) Pallone Souder
 Levin Pastor (AZ) Space
 Lewis (CA) Paul Spratt
 Lewis (GA) Paulsen Stearns
 Linder Payne Stupak
 Lipinski Perlmutter Sullivan
 LoBiondo Perriello Sutton
 Loeb sack Peters Tanner
 Lofgren, Zoe Peterson Tauscher
 Lowey Petri Taylor
 Luján Pingree (ME) Teague
 Lummis Pitts Terry
 Lungren, Daniel Platts Thompson (CA)
 E. Poe (TX) Thompson (MS)
 Lynch Polis (CO) Thornberry
 Mack Pomeroy Tiahrt
 Maffei Posey Tiberi
 Maloney Price (GA) Tierney
 Manzullo Price (NC) Titus
 Markey (CO) Rahall Tonko
 Markey (MA) Rangel Towns
 Marshall Rehberg Tsongas
 Massa Reichert Upton
 Matheson Reyes Van Hollen
 Matsui Richardson Velázquez
 McCarthy (CA) Rodriguez Visclosky
 McCarthy (NY) Roe (TN) Walden
 McClintock Rogers (AL) Wasserman
 McCollum Rogers (MI) Schultz
 McCotter Rooney Waters
 McDermott Ros-Lehtinen Watt
 McGovern Ross Waxman
 McHenry Rothman (NJ) Weiner
 McHugh Roybal-Allard Westmoreland
 McIntyre Royce Wexler
 McKeon Ruppersberger Whitfield
 McMahon Rush Wilson (OH)
 McMorris Ryan (WI) Wilson (SC)
 Rodgers Salazar Wittman
 McNeerney Sanchez, Loretta Wolf
 Meek (FL) Sarbanes Woolsey
 Meeks (NY) Scalise Wu
 Melancon Schakowsky Yarmuth
 Mica Schauer Young (AK)
 Michaud Schiff Young (FL)
 Miller (FL) Schmidt

NOT VOTING—47

Bilirakis Hall (NY) Putnam
 Boren Hinchey Radanovich
 Boucher Johnson (IL) Rogers (KY)
 Boustany Jordan (OH) Rohrabacher
 Brown, Corrine Kennedy Roskam
 Cao Kirk Sánchez, Linda
 Delahunt Lucas T.
 Doyle Luetkemeyer Shea-Porter
 Dreier Marchant Smith (WA)
 Emerson McCaul Speier
 Flake Miller, Gary Stark
 Gallegly Moran (VA) Thompson (PA)
 Gingrey (GA) Myrick Turner
 Gohmert Olson Walz
 Grijalva Pascarell Wamp
 Gutierrez Pence Welch

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 126, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1284.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 127]

YEAS—384

Abercrombie Carnahan Fleming
 Ackerman Carney Forbes
 Aderholt Carson (IN) Fortenberry
 Adler (NJ) Carter Foster
 Akin Cassidy Foxx
 Alexander Castle Frank (MA)
 Altmire Castor (FL) Franks (AZ)
 Andrews Chaffetz Frelinghuysen
 Arcuri Chandler Fudge
 Austria Childers Garrett (NJ)
 Baca Clarke Gerlach
 Bachmann Clay Giffords
 Bachus Cleaver Gonzalez
 Baird Clyburn Goodlatte
 Baldwin Coble Gordon (TN)
 Barret (SC) Coffman (CO) Granger
 Barrow Cohen Graves
 Bartlett Cole Grayson
 Barton (TX) Conaway Green, Al
 Bean Connolly (VA) Green, Gene
 Becerra Conyers Griffith
 Berkley Cooper Guthrie
 Berman Costa Hall (TX)
 Berry Costello Halvorson
 Biggert Courtney Hare
 Bilbray Crenshaw Harman
 Bilirakis Crowley Harper
 Bishop (GA) Cuellar Hastings (FL)
 Bishop (NY) Culberson Hastings (WA)
 Bishop (UT) Cummings Heinrich
 Blackburn Dahlkemper Heller
 Blumenauer Davis (AL) Hensarling
 Blunt Davis (CA) Herger
 Boccieri Davis (IL) Herseth Sandlin
 Boehner Davis (KY) Higgins
 Bonner Davis (TN) Hill
 Bono Mack Deal (GA) Himes
 Boozman DeFazio Hinojosa
 Boswell DeGette Hirono
 Boyd DeLauro Hodes
 Brady (PA) Dent Hoekstra
 Brady (TX) Diaz-Balart, L. Holden
 Braley (IA) Diaz-Balart, M. Holt
 Bright Dicks Honda
 Broun (GA) Dingell Hoyer
 Brown (SC) Doggett Hunter
 Brown-Waite, Donnelly (IN) Inglis
 Ginny Driehaus Inslee
 Buchanan Duncan Israel
 Burgess Edwards (MD) Issa
 Burton (IN) Edwards (TX) Jackson (IL)
 Butterfield Ehlers Jackson-Lee
 Buyer Ellison (TX)
 Calvert Ellsworth Jenkins
 Camp Engel Johnson (GA)
 Campbell Eshoo Johnson, E. B.
 Cantor Etheridge Johnson, Sam
 Capito Fallin Jones
 Capps Farr Kagen
 Capuano Fattah Kanjorski
 Cardoza Filner Kaptur

Kildee Miller (FL) Schiff
 Kilpatrick (MI) Miller (MI) Schmidt
 Kilroy Miller (NC) Schrader
 Kind Miller, George Schwartz
 King (IA) Minnick Scott (VA)
 King (NY) Mitchell Sensenbrenner
 Kingston Mollohan Serrano
 Kirkpatrick (AZ) Moore (KS) Sessions
 Kissell Moore (WI) Sestak
 Klein (FL) Moran (KS) Shadegg
 Kline (MN) Murphy (CT) Sherman
 Kosmas Murphy, Patrick Shimkus
 Kratovil Murphy, Tim Shuler
 Kucinich Murtha Shuster
 Lamborn Nadler (NY) Simpson
 Lance Napolitano Sires
 Langevin Neal (MA) Skelton
 Larsen (WA) Neugebauer Slaughter
 Larson (CT) Nunes Smith (NE)
 Latham Nye Smith (NJ)
 LaTourette Oberstar Smith (TX)
 Latta Obey Snyder
 Lee (CA) Oliver Souder
 Lee (NY) Ortiz Space
 Levin Pallone Spratt
 Lewis (CA) Pastor (AZ) Stearns
 Lewis (GA) Paul Stupak
 Linder Paulsen Sullivan
 Lipinski Payne Sutton
 LoBiondo Perlmutter Tanner
 Loeb sack Perriello Tauscher
 Lofgren, Zoe Peters Taylor
 Lowey Peterson Teague
 Luján Petri Terry
 Lummis Pingree (ME) Thompson (CA)
 Lungren, Daniel Pitts Thompson (MS)
 E. Platts Thornberry
 Lynch Poe (TX) Tiahrt
 Mack Polis (CO) Tiberi
 Maffei Pomeroy Tierney
 Maloney Posey Titus
 Manzullo Price (GA) Tonko
 Marchant Price (NC) Towns
 Markey (CO) Rahall Tsongas
 Markey (MA) Rangel Upton
 Marshall Rehberg Van Hollen
 Massa Reichert Velázquez
 Matheson Reyes Visclosky
 Matsui Richardson Walden
 McCarthy (CA) Rodriguez Wasserman
 McCarthy (NY) Roe (TN) Schultz
 McClintock Rogers (AL) Waters
 McCollum Rogers (MI) Watson
 McCotter Rooney Watt
 McDermott Ros-Lehtinen Waxman
 McGovern Ross Weiner
 McHenry Rothman (NJ) Westmoreland
 McHugh Roybal-Allard Wexler
 McIntyre Royce Whitfield
 McKeon Ruppersberger Wilson (OH)
 McMahon Rush Wilson (SC)
 McMorris Ryan (OH) Wittman
 Rodgers Ryan (WI) Wolf
 McNeerney Salazar Woolsey
 Meek (FL) Sanchez, Loretta Wu
 Meeks (NY) Sarbanes Yarmuth
 Melancon Scalise Young (AK)
 Mica Schakowsky Young (FL)
 Michaud Schauer

NOT VOTING—47

Boren Hinchey Rogers (KY)
 Boucher Johnson (IL) Rohrabacher
 Boustany Jordan (OH) Roskam
 Brown, Corrine Kennedy Sánchez, Linda
 Cao Kirk T.
 Delahunt Lucas Schock
 Doyle Luetkemeyer Scott (GA)
 Dreier McCaul Shea-Porter
 Emerson Miller, Gary Smith (WA)
 Flake Moran (VA) Speier
 Gallegly Myrick Stark
 Gingrey (GA) Olson Thompson (PA)
 Gohmert Pascrell Turner
 Grijalva Pence Walz
 Gutierrez Putnam Wamp
 Hall (NY) Radanovich Welch

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have less than 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1911

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, March 16th, I was detained in my district and therefore missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 125 on agreeing to the resolution H.R. 987—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office". Had I been present I would have also voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 126 on agreeing to the resolution H.R. 1217—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building." Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 127 on agreeing to the resolution H.R. 1284—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 125, 126, and 127.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I was unexpectedly detained in my district due to a flight delay and missed three votes. If present, I would have voted: "yea" on H.R. 987; "yea" on H.R. 1217; and "yea" on H.R. 1284.

SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON WILL LEAD ROBUST HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, Secretary Clinton called the President of Sri Lanka to express deep concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in northern Sri Lanka. She stated clearly that the army should not fire on civilians, that international organizations should have full access to the thousands of people trapped inside the conflict area, and she condemned the Tamil Tigers for their atrocities. It was a strong human rights statement.

Last Wednesday, Secretary Clinton stood up for the rights of women when she hosted the 2009 International Women of Courage Awards. She noted those women whose governments kept them from traveling to Washington to receive this honor.

She also met with the Chinese Foreign Minister. She told him that every nation seeking to lead in the inter-

national community must live by the global rules that determine whether people enjoy the right to live freely and participate fully, including the freedom to speak out, to worship, and to live and work with dignity.

Secretary Clinton is committed to a strong human rights agenda, and I look forward to working with her and promoting human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN,
MARCH 13, 2009.

STATEMENT BY GORDON DUGUID, ACTING
DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

On March 13, Secretary Clinton called Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa to express the United States' deep concern over the deteriorating conditions and increasing loss of life occurring in the Government of Sri Lanka-designated "safe zone" in northern Sri Lanka. The Secretary stated that the Sri Lankan Army should not fire into the civilian areas of the conflict zone. The Secretary offered immediate and post-conflict reconstruction assistance and she extended condolences to the victims of the March 10 bombing outside a mosque in southern Sri Lanka. She condemned the actions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are reported to be holding civilians as human shields, and to have shot at civilians leaving LTTE areas of control.

Secretary Clinton called on President Rajapaksa to devise a political solution to the ongoing conflict. She urged the President to give international humanitarian relief organizations full access to the conflict area and displaced persons camps, including screening centers.

The United States believes that a durable and lasting peace will only be achieved through a political solution that addresses the legitimate aspirations of all of Sri Lanka's communities. We call on the Sri Lankan Government to put forward a proposal now to engage Tamils who do not espouse violence or terrorism, and to develop power sharing arrangements so that lasting peace and reconciliation can be achieved.

(March 11, 2009)

2009 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE
AWARDS

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, SECRETARY OF
STATE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ROOM, WASH-
INGTON, DC

Secretary Clinton: Well, this is such an exciting occasion, and there were so many people who wanted to come today, but unfortunately, there is a limit to how many people we can let into this magnificent room. So there are people watching on closed-circuit TV all over this building, and beyond.

And it is my pleasure to welcome you to the State Department to celebrate International Women's Day with a very special event and a very special guest. The event is the International Women of Courage Awards, and in a minute, you will meet these remarkable women and learn more about their lives and their work. And I am especially delighted to thank one person in particular whose presence here means a great deal to all of us—our First Lady, Michelle Obama. (Applause.)

Now, I know a little bit about the role that—(laughter)—Michelle Obama is filling now. And I have to say that in a very short time, she has, through her grace and her wisdom, become an inspiration to women and girls not only in the United States, but around the world. And it is so fitting that

she would join us here at the State Department to celebrate the achievements of other extraordinary women, and to show her commitment to supporting women and girls around the globe.

She understands, as we all do here at the State Department, that the status of women and girls is a key indicator of whether or not progress is possible in a society. And so I am very grateful to her and to President Obama, who earlier today announced the creation of the White House Interagency Council on Women and Girls. That will—(applause). That office will help us collaborate across every department and agency in our government.

President Obama has also designated an ambassador-at-large to consolidate our work on women's global issues here at the State Department. Now, this is a position that has never existed before, and I am very pleased that someone you all know, if you have ever worked on women's issues—know and appreciate a longtime colleague and friend, Melanne Verwee, who's been nominated to fill that post. (Applause.)

And I also want to thank Ambassador Susan Rice and our excellent U.S. delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which is in the middle of its annual meetings now, for the work that they are doing and for the engagement that they demonstrate.

Today, we're focusing on the International Women of Courage Awards. It's a fairly new tradition here at the State Department, but it's already become a cherished institution. For the past three years, our embassies have sent us stories of extraordinary women who work every day, often against great odds to advance the rights of all human beings to fulfill their God-given potential. Today, we recognize eight of those women. Each is one of a kind, but together they represent countless women and men who strive daily for justice and opportunity in every country and on every continent, usually without recognition or reward.

And I want to say a special word about someone who could not join us, who we honor today—Reem Al Numery, who was forced to marry her older cousin when she was just 12 years old. She is now fighting to obtain a divorce for herself and end child marriage in Yemen. She was not able to be here, but we honor her strength and we pledge our support to end child marriage everywhere, once and for all. (Applause.)

We also express our solidarity with women whose governments have forbidden them from joining us, especially Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been kept under house arrest in Burma for most of the past two decades, but continues to be a beacon of hope and strength to people around the world. Her example has been especially important to other women in Burma who have been imprisoned for their political beliefs, driven into exile, or subjected to sexual violence by the military.

Our honorees and the hundreds of millions of women they represent not only deserve our respect, they deserve our full support. When we talk about human rights, what I think of are faces like these. What I am committed to is doing everything in my power as Secretary of State to further the work on the ground in countries like those represented here to make changes in peoples' lives. That doesn't happen always in the halls of government. It happens day to day in the towns and cities, the villages and countryside where the work of human rights goes on.

We simply cannot solve the global problems confronting us, from a worldwide financial crisis to the risks of climate change to chronic hunger, disease, and poverty that sap the energies and talents of hundreds of

millions of people when half the world's population is left behind. The rights of women—really, of all people—are at the core of these challenges, and human rights will always be central to our foreign policy.

Earlier today I met with Foreign Minister Yang of China and conveyed to him, as I do in my meetings with all other leaders, that it is our view in the Obama Administration that every nation seeking to lead in the international community must not only live by, but help shape the global rules that will determine whether people do enjoy the rights to live freely and participate fully. The peace, prosperity and progress that we know are best served and best serve human beings come when there is freedom to speak out, to worship, to go to school, enjoy access to health care, live and work with dignity.

The United States is grounded in these ideals, and our foreign policy must be guided by them. Indeed, our own country must continually strive to live up to these ideals ourselves. Not only does smart power require us to demand more of ourselves when it comes to human rights, but to express those views to others and to actually assist those who are on the frontlines of human rights struggles everywhere.

It is important that we focus on human rights because I know what inspiration it has given to me over many years. The people I have met, they have constantly reminded me of how much work lies ahead if we are to be the world of peace, prosperity and progress that we all seek.

I've met a lot of people, particularly women, who have risked their lives—from women being oppressed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, to mothers seeking to end the violence in Northern Ireland, to citizens working for freedom of religion in Uzbekistan, and NGOs struggling to build civil society in Slovakia, to grassroots advocates working to end human trafficking in Asia and Africa, and local women in India and Bangladesh, Chile, Nicaragua, Vietnam and many other places who are leading movements for economic independence and empowerment.

These personal experiences have informed my work. And I will continue to fight for human rights as Secretary of State in traditional and especially non-traditional ways and venues.

All of you gathered here represent the kind of broad coalition that we need—business leaders, NGO leaders, ambassadors, experts, people from every corner of our government, citizens who are moved and touched by the stories of courage that we will be hearing some more of today.

And it is exciting that we have now in our own country someone who is standing up for the best of America, a woman who understands the multiple roles that women play during the course of our lives, and fulfills each one with grace. An example of leadership, service, and strength. It is my great pleasure and honor to introduce the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama. (Applause.)

(The First Lady makes remarks.)

(Applause.)

Secretary Clinton: Thank you so much, Mrs. Obama, and it's exciting to have your leadership and example for not only girls and women in our country, but those around the world.

Now, we're going to start with the extraordinary women who we honor today. The first woman, Wazhma Frogh, from Afghanistan, is being recognized for her courageous efforts to combat sexual and domestic violence and child and marital rape throughout Afghanistan, despite facing dangerous conditions. She has come a long way, and we stand in solidarity with her and the people of Afghanistan. (Applause.)

Next, from Guatemala, Norma Cruz. We are recognizing her for her unyielding efforts to end the culture of impunity surrounding the murder and other forms of violence against women in Guatemala. At great risk to her personal safety, Norma Cruz has been outspoken and extraordinarily brave, and we are honored to have her with us today. Norma Cruz. (Applause.)

Suaad Allami, from Iraq. I told Suaad when we were waiting to come out how pleased I was to see her, and how grateful we are for the progress that we've seen, but we know how much more needs to be done in her country. And we honor her for bravely promoting the legal rights, the health, the social well-being and the economic and political empowerment of women in Iraq, despite threats to her own safety. Thank you so much, Suaad. (Applause.)

Veronika Marchenko, from Russia. We honor her for her stalwart leadership in seeking justice for the families of bereaved service members, young men conscripted into the Russian Army. For her commitment to seeking the truth and in promoting improved human rights conditions for those who serve in the Russian army, and being a networking presence to bring together those who served and their families to find answers to so many of the questions that no one had ever, ever bothered to answer before. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

Our next honoree is from Uzbekistan, Mutabar Tadjibayeva, for her courage, her conviction, her perseverance in promoting human rights, the rule of law, and good governance in Uzbekistan, and for standing up for justice at great personal risk. Mutabar is someone who has been in prison for quite some time, and she still has a big smile on her face, and I salute her courage and her persistence. (Applause.)

From Niger, Hadizatou Mani. Hadizatou is such an inspiring person. Enslaved by being sold at a very young age, she never gave up on herself or on her deep reservoir of human dignity. When she finally escaped from slavery, she didn't forget those who were still enslaved. For her inspiring courage in successfully challenging an entrenched system of caste-based slavery, and securing a legal precedent that will help countless others seek freedom and justice, we honor and salute her. (Applause.)

You know, before I introduce our final honoree, who will respond on behalf of all of the honorees, I just want to say that over the course of many years of doing human rights work, and particularly on behalf of girls and women, I'm sometimes asked, well, do ceremonies like this really matter; is that just not something, you know, that you do and it's a nice feeling, and then you go back to wherever you came from?

I know that these kinds of recognitions and moments of honor by both governments and NGOs and other institutions and individuals are extremely important. They provide a recognition of an individual's struggle and courage that stands for so much more. They provide a degree of awareness about the problems that the individual is fighting to remedy. They serve notice on governments that the first and highest duty is for every government to protect the human rights of every individual within that jurisdiction. And they provide a degree of protection.

And so I salute those in the State Department who have recognized the importance of this and kept it going, and we are proud to continue that tradition.

Our final speaker, Ambiga Sreenevasan, has a remarkable record of accomplishment in Malaysia. She has pursued judicial reform and good governance, she has stood up for religious tolerance, and she has been a resolute advocate of women's equality and their full

political participation. She is someone who is not only working in her own country, but whose influence is felt beyond the borders of Malaysia. And it is a great honor to recognize her and invite her to the podium. (Applause.)

Ms. Sreenevasan: The First Lady Mrs. Obama, Madame Secretary Hillary Clinton, ladies and gentlemen, I am humbled to be in the company of seven extraordinary women receiving this award for courage, and I am deeply honored to now speak on their behalf and on mine.

We accept this award in all humility, remembering that we have been fortunate in being singled out from among countless courageous women in our countries who are dedicated to the cause of equality and justice.

It is also timely for us to remember all the women in other conflict-ridden territories, like Palestine and other countries, who have to show courage every single day in their struggle to survive and to keep their families together.

Each of us fights causes that promote equality and justice, and by presenting us with this award you honor those causes and all the people who work tirelessly for them with unflinching dedication.

This award will help to bring to the international stage our voices and our advocacy on these important issues. This occasion gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the rule of law in promoting the rights of women around the world. When the rule of law is upheld, equality is upheld, the cause of justice is upheld, and human rights are upheld.

Today, we are witnessing a struggle for the souls of our nations, taking place between the forces of the old and the forces of change. We see our commitment to the rule of law, fundamental liberties, and the independence of our institutions being tested. The strength of our nations will depend on how well they withstand this test.

There are those who claim that democracy is a Western concept and is unsuitable elsewhere. There are yet others who perpetrate injustices behind a veneer of democracy. We say that democracy is universal, and a true democracy and the rule of law will prevail when the collective voices of the people are raised in its support.

On my part, I have for the past two years had the privilege to lead and serve the Malaysian Bar, a professional organization consisting of approximately 13,000 lawyers. History will bear testament to the fact that the Malaysian Bar has always been true to its first article of faith, to uphold the cause of justice without regard to its own interests or that of its members uninfluenced by fear or favor. In a sense, I was merely stepping into the shoes of the many other brave leaders of the bar who came before me, whereas many of the awardees today are pioneers in their struggle for justice.

This award has given us the opportunity which we would not otherwise have had, to share our stories, our successes, our failures, to reach out across our borders and to establish a base upon which we can build a meaningful network of support. These stories must be told in all our countries. By this experience, we are both enriched and enraged; enriched by what we have shared, and enraged that so many of our sisters endure intimidation and suffering in their countries. Nevertheless, ours is a message of hope that something has been achieved, despite the odds.

Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This means that although we may come from different walks of life, our struggle is common. And each success is a success for all,

just as each failure is a failure for all. When we unite on a human rights platform, whether domestically or internationally, above politics and political alliances, we create more enduring partnerships and relationships. When we pursue freedom and empowerment for others, we reaffirm and protect our own.

In my interaction with the other awardees present here today, it was evident that the passion we feel for our causes is driven by the love of our homelands and our people. That, in turn, drives our passion for what is right and what is just. Our people deserve nothing less. We all believe in striving for ideals that are—if I may borrow the words—self-evident; namely, the ideals of truth, justice, goodness, and universal love and understanding. Our stories are a testament to the universality of these ideals.

We are truly and deeply honored by this award, more so, when it comes from you, Madame Secretary, yourself a woman of courage, who has inspired women around the world to reach great heights. Your untiring efforts in championing women's rights worldwide are well known. Your immortal words that, "Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights," resonate with all of us here.

We would also like to express our deep admiration for the First Lady Mrs. Obama, and we would also like to express our appreciation for your sharing this moment with us. Madame Secretary, on behalf of all the awardees, I thank you. And we accept the honor with humility and pride. Thank you. (Applause.)

Secretary Clinton: Thank you. These women of courage will serve to remind us every day as we do our work in this venerable building—here we are in the Benjamin Franklin Room, and I'm about to invite you to join our reception in the Thomas Jefferson Room—that our own country has a lot to live up to. But we derive inspiration from those who are struggling so hard just to realize the basic rights that we sometimes take for granted. And it is our responsibility not only to continue to do what we must here at home to realize the dream that America represents, but to use our talents and our abilities and resources to help others as well.

It is such a great privilege to be here with all of you, to be the Secretary of State at this moment of history in an administration represented by Mrs. Obama today, led by President Obama, who means so much already to so many around the world. Now, it's our job to realize the promise that that represents. Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 12, 2009]

CLINTON REITERATES U.S. COMMITMENT TO 'ROBUST' RIGHTS AGENDA

(By Glenn Kessler)

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, under fire for some of her recent remarks on human rights, insisted yesterday that the Obama administration regards the issue at the same level as economics and international security.

"A mutual and collective commitment to human rights is [as] important to bettering our world as our efforts on security, global economics, energy, climate change and other pressing issues," Clinton told reporters after meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi at the State Department. She said she had raised with Yang the issue of Tibet and a resumption of a U.S.-China human rights dialogue.

"The Obama administration is absolutely committed to a robust, comprehensive human rights agenda," she said. "We're going to look for ways where we can be effective, where we can actually produce outcomes that will matter in the lives of people who are struggling for their rights to be full participants in their societies."

Last month, during her first trip as chief U.S. diplomat to Asia, Clinton provoked human rights activists by saying that pressing China on that issue "can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis and the security crisis." On matters such as greater freedom for Tibetans, Clinton said, "We pretty much know what [Beijing is] going to say."

Then, while traveling in the Middle East last week, Clinton appeared to play down human rights issues in Egypt and Turkey that had been raised in recent State Department reports, earning her further criticism. "She has missed unique opportunities," said Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.), one of the leading congressional voices on human rights. Secretary of State Condoleezza "Rice started out strong and ended weak," he said. "But Secretary Clinton is starting out weak."

Human rights activists were further upset Tuesday by the State Department releasing a statement on Tibet in the name of spokesman Robert A. Wood, after Wood had announced hours earlier that it would be issued in Clinton's name, on the eve of her meeting with Yang. Foreign governments tend to give greater weight to statements issued in the name of the secretary of state or the president, rather than spokesmen or press secretaries.

Wood refused yesterday to discuss "internal deliberations" of the State Department and said: "The statement that we issued last night has the full weight of the secretary. It was cleared by the secretary, and it represents the secretary's views."

Department officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were discussing internal deliberations, said the original announcement was an error. They noted that State had never issued a statement on the anniversary of Tibet's failed uprising against Chinese rule but that on the 50th anniversary, Clinton wanted such a statement despite the awkward timing of the Yang meeting. The meeting was scheduled mostly to discuss planning for the April 2 Group of 20 summit, which will focus on the world economic crisis.

The statement was issued in Wood's name because Clinton decided to address the media herself after the session with Yang, officials said.

Some sources said a draft statement on Tibet was more detailed and explicit, urging, for instance, the release of Tibetan prisoners. But other officials disagreed, saying that those elements were not in the statement when it reached Clinton's office and that she personally strengthened parts of it. Wang is scheduled to meet today with President Obama at the White House, officials said yesterday.

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SOMEBODY ELSE'S MONEY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Uncle Sam keeps giving away taxpayer money to businesses that claim they are too important to fail. Some of these irresponsible corporations helped bring on this economic crisis.

Our government seems to be just as irresponsible in the way that it spends America's money. AIG received \$85 billion in bailout money from our gra-

cious government, but the Feds put little or no restrictions on that money. So, AIG is giving \$165 million of that money in bonuses to its own employees. You know, those are the same people that put AIG in this economic turmoil.

To make matters worse, since \$85 billion wasn't enough, irresponsible Uncle Sam is promising to fork over \$30 billion more of somebody else's money to AIG. Now we learn AIG is sending some of that taxpayer money to Europe, including French banks.

Normally the government should not tell private businesses how to operate, but when 80 percent of the business is run by the government, as AIG is, the government has the duty to protect taxpayer money. Thus far, Uncle Sam has had a reckless disregard for the way it throws citizen money around.

And that's just the way it is.

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CONGRATULATING JACK YATES HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and congratulate my constituents' Jack Yates High School basketball team that won the State of Texas' championship.

It is important to emphasize when young people are committed to excellence, and I want to congratulate this school for never giving up, never giving out, and never giving in, as I have heard so often from my good friend and colleague.

It is important to note that this school was challenged to be closed some 3 years ago. But yet not only have they excelled academically, they excelled on the basketball court, having lost some of their star players in the last school year.

Congratulations to their great coach. Congratulations to those students who were persevering. And isn't it exciting to win their first championship since the 1940s?

Go Jack Yates, a great basketball team. We're excited, and we are proud of you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA DOES BEST WHEN WE STICK TO OUR BASIC VALUES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for many years I have been calling upon our Nation's leaders to reject war as an instrument of foreign policy and to emphasize diplomacy. Today I rise to praise the Obama administration for opening a new page in our relations with the world by showing that it is ready to talk with friends and foes alike.

In just a short time, the administration has taken a number of important steps. It has sent an envoy to Syria, a nation which must be part of a comprehensive solution to the conflicts in the Middle East. The administration has announced its willingness to work with China on such critical issues as the global economy, on energy, and the environment. President Obama is trying to get Russia's help in convincing the Iranians to give up their ambitions of nuclear weapons, and they are encouraging our NATO partners to resume high-level relations with Russia. These relations, as we remember, were suspended after Russia's military operation against Georgia 6 months ago.

In the State Department, Secretary of State Clinton said that the United States will hold a high-level conference in Afghanistan, a conference to bring together the nations of the region and members of the international community for serious talks. Most importantly, Secretary Clinton has said that Iran is likely to be invited to this conference because, Mr. Speaker, we must talk to Iran if we're going to reduce tensions between our two countries.

President Obama promised to reach out to Iran during the presidential campaign even though he took a lot of political heat during that time. Now the President is making good on his pledge, and I, for one, applaud him for that. Of course, there are some who oppose these diplomatic overtures.

America's 6-year occupation of Iraq, Mr. Speaker, has weakened the ability of our Armed Forces to respond to real threats elsewhere in the world, and our occupation of Afghanistan hasn't defeated the Taliban. So now we must protect against sinking even deeper into an endless conflict in that part of the world.

Those who think that diplomacy won't work should read the article in today's Washington Post by Fareed Zakaria. He says the following: "The Washington establishment treats compromise as treason and negotiations as appeasement. It believes that the only way to deal with other countries is by issuing a series of demands. This is not foreign policy," he says. "It's imperial policy. And it isn't likely to work in today's world."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with him on that because I think it's exactly right.

If we are going to achieve our foreign policy goals, we must use all the tools of soft power, which really should be called "smart power," because these tools include diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and conflict resolution.

Mr. Speaker, America does best when we stick to our basic values of peace and justice. These values are the real source of our strength, and they are the values that will help us build a world that's peaceful and safe.

HONORING DAVE LAWRENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor a great constituent of my congressional district, Mr. Dave Lawrence of South Florida, for his upcoming recognition as the American Red Cross 2009 Humanitarian of the Year.

In order to be named Humanitarian of the Year, Mr. Speaker, the International Red Cross requires that a person possess these qualities: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, and unity. Well, anyone who has spent even just a moment with Dave Lawrence can see that he embodies these very qualities. He brings them into every activity of his life and every endeavor that he pursues.

Mr. Lawrence is a graduate of the University of Florida, where his many distinguished academic accomplishments earned him the title of "Outstanding Journalism Graduate." Mr. Lawrence's subsequent career in journalism would take him across our country from a position as editor of the Charlotte Observer to Detroit, where he served as the publisher and executive editor of The Free Press.

In 1989, to our community's great fortune, he settled down in South Florida, where he was the publisher for the Miami Herald for 10 successful years. As a journalist, Dave Lawrence was honored with the First Amendment Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the IAPA Commentary Award for the elegance of his writing. Under his leadership the Miami Herald brought home five Pulitzer Prizes in a decade.

In 1999 Mr. Lawrence retired from journalism to pursue another passion. Leaving his distinguished career as a journalist behind him, Dave's altruism would rival even those individuals of the many philanthropic organizations that he has led, such as the United Way and the University of Florida Foundation. This calling was one for which he had already proven himself quite adept with his own five children.

South Florida's Father's Day Council recognized him as their Father of the Year, and the Family Counseling Services honored him; his wife, Roberta; his three daughters; and his two sons with the title "Family of the Year."

Dave's calling was to prepare as many children as possible for their education at the earliest possible opportunity. His crusade gathered steam when he led the voters of Miami-Dade County to authorize The Children's Trust, which provides an independent source of revenue devoted solely to the children of South Florida. His success in this campaign earned him two prestigious appointments by Governor Jeb Bush.

As the Chair of both the Florida Partnership for Childhood Readiness and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection, Dave Lawrence served as the steward of the early education program for Florida's children. From these positions he was able to play a crucial role in the fight to amend the constitution of our great State of Florida. Now, thanks in large part to his efforts, all of the children of our great State of Florida have access to quality pre-kindergarten education so that they may have a proper foundation for learning that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

Dave Lawrence, I hope that you know how great you have been to our children, to our South Florida community, and, indeed, to our Nation.

The global economy will continue to grow, and yet our world will become smaller, and the competition in it will be even more fierce. But thanks to the philanthropic efforts of Mr. David Lawrence, the children of Florida will have the head start that they need to stay competitive and ensure that America remains the greatest democratic country in the history of the world.

Dave, we owe you a debt of gratitude, and no one deserves to be honored by the American Red Cross 2009 Humanitarian of the Year award more than you.

Felicidades, mi amigo. Congratulations, my friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CRIME BY FOREIGN NATIONALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the crime committed in the United States by foreign nationals is hard to determine. The statistics are all over the map. But let me give you some tonight.

The 9/11 Families For a Secure America say that 32 percent of all people incarcerated in the United States are in the United States illegally.

Recently, I had the opportunity to go to south Texas to visit some of our sheriffs on the Texas-Mexico border. There are 16 counties in Texas that

border Mexico. Two of those are Culberson County, where Sheriff Oscar Carrillo is the sheriff. The other one is Hudspeth County, where Arvin West is the sheriff. I was their guest over the weekend a couple of weeks ago.

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And I was asking them this very question, "How can we determine if the cross-border travelers are committing crime in the United States? Does it all stay in Mexico, where we know there is corruption and violent crime, or does it come over to the United States?"

Well, Sheriff Arvin West gave me this statistic. There are two jails in Hudspeth County, one has a little over 100, and the other one is a private jail of over 500. He said most of the people in both of those jails are foreign nationals.

And I asked him, "Are these people charged with immigration violations or are they charged with other crimes?" He said, "No, they are charged with committing crimes in my county." He said, in fact, the jail that has a little over 100, every person in the jail is illegally in the United States except for one person. He said, "If I didn't have cross-border travelers committing crime in my county, I wouldn't need a jail except for two people, one for a male and one for a female."

So we do understand that crime is coming into the United States from cross-border travelers because the United States does not enforce the rule of law on the Texas-Mexico border or the southern border of the United States.

The Justice Department has said that 80 percent of the crime in the United States now is drug related or gang related. Newsweek recently reported that Phoenix, Arizona, is the No. 1 kidnapping capital in the United States, and most of it's related to the drug cartels and human trafficking.

Recently Sheriff Arpaio from Maricopa County in Phoenix has been arresting folks that are illegally in the United States pursuant to a Federal program called the 287g Program. Federal funds go to local communities to train local peace officers to enforce immigration violations.

It's been so successful that he's now being investigated by the Federal authorities, not for seeing how successful it is, but to see if he is following the rule of law, because some people who want open borders are complaining about his work. Of course, he says, he welcomes the investigation because maybe the Federal Government could do their job better. But it's important that agencies all work together. We are all in this together.

Even my hometown in Houston is changing its attitude. For years the City of Houston has been accused by some of being a sanctuary city, like San Francisco. It claims it's not a sanctuary city, even though the Center For Immigration Studies says there are over 400,000 illegals in the City of Houston.

So at least 400,000 doesn't make you a sanctuary city, but be that as it may, violence has occurred against our peace officers, Officer James Harris, Officer Andrew Winzer, Officer Florentino Garcia, Officer Guy Gaddis, Officer Rodney Johnson and Officer Gary Gryder, a personal friend of mine. You may not know those names, Mr. Speaker, but those are all Houston police officers killed by foreign nationals, most of them illegally in the country.

As recently as March 5, Officer Richard Salter was trying to arrest an individual with an arrest warrant, and he was shot in the face by that individual. He was an individual from El Salvador who had been through the criminal justice system five times, ordered deported, and apparently he never went back to where he came from or he crossed the border again.

It's important that foreign nationals understand that we will not tolerate crime committed by them in the United States. And it makes no difference whether those people are legally in the United States or illegally in the United States.

You come to America, and you commit a crime, and you are a foreign national, those people need to be sent home first. We need to tell them to pack their toothbrush, you don't have a right to stay in this country. And our government, working with local authorities, ought to do everything it can to send those people back home.

You don't have a right to come here and commit crime and stay here. And we should enforce the rule of law first with those foreign nationals that commit crime in the United States. After all, it is the duty of our government.

The first duty of government is not building roads and bridges and naming a bunch of post offices. The first duty of government is to protect the country, protect the citizens that live here. And the government that we have, the United States of America, needs to enforce the rule of law in this country because that is the duty of government.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AIG BONUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, to date, the Federal Government has given American International Group, AIG, \$173 billion in bailout funds.

AIG, which is now 80 percent owned by the American taxpayer, posted a record \$62 billion loss in the fourth quarter of 2008. And that's why this

week the American people were outraged to hear that AIG would be paying out \$165 million in bonuses, courtesy of the United States taxpayer.

To add insult to injury, the bulk of the payments are going to employees of AIG Financial Products, the unit of the company that sold the risky contracts that caused massive losses for AIG. The American people are angry and frustrated. They want to know why are we giving taxpayer money to failing companies so they can hand out bonuses?

Mr. Speaker, last fall I voted against this \$700 billion government bailout because I do not believe American taxpayers should pick up the tab for the poor business decisions and greed of high-flying Wall Street firms. Because the bailout was authorized, every American taxpayer has an interest in ensuring that the U.S. Treasury does not recklessly squander their hard-earned money.

And the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Paulson, as former CEO of Goldman Sachs, allowed Lehman Brothers to fail, but AIG got a bailout. AIG went on to pay out \$13 billion of that Federal aid to trading partner Goldman Sachs.

And now, thanks to the American taxpayer, AIG is still doling out hundreds of millions of dollars in employee benefits and retention pay. To the taxpayers who are footing the bill, the Federal Government's selection of winners and losers just does not meet the smell test.

The lack of oversight in the process is outrageous. Employees in eastern North Carolina, which I have the privilege to represent, are not rewarded bonuses when their companies lose money.

Constituents in my district want to know why should the employees of Wall Street be any different? I join the American taxpayers in their frustration. I pay taxes, and I'm frustrated too.

Unfortunately, all we hear from AIG chairman Ed Liddy is that AIG's hands are tied because these bonuses are based on binding contracts that were made before the government bailout. Well, Mr. Speaker, this Congress and the current administration better make sure that no further corporate bonuses are paid for with taxpayers' money.

I thank President Obama for speaking out so clearly and plainly about these retention bonuses because, like those of us in Congress, he has been hearing from frustrated taxpayers. I call on the Federal Government to explore every legal option available to block these excessive and undeserved bonuses on behalf of the taxpayers of America.

And in closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and may God continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE FORGOTTEN LESSONS OF HISTORY: FIXING THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, picking up where the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) left off, I, too, wish to address the subject of American International Group, also known as AIG.

As we have recently heard, having run the company into the ground and receiving a taxpayer bailout, roughly \$173 billion, they are now going to give themselves \$165 million in bonuses, the argument being that the contracts were entered into prior to the government bailout and, thus, darn the luck, their hands are tied. They will have to accept this money.

And yet I think of another instance where taxpayer funds have been used, one-tenth of the amount, within the auto industry, where, right now, the men and women, white-collar employees and the United Auto Workers' blue-collar workforce, are busy renegotiating contracts so they can earn less in order to justify continued taxpayer support of our domestic auto industry. Clearly they understand what is necessary to restructure and be viable for the future, even if the individuals at AIG do not.

What we are facing now is not only a crisis of confidence within our financial institutions, we are facing a crisis of confidence within our governmental institutions. As taxpayers watch hundreds of billions of their hard-earned dollars be spent on the very financial institutions that brought us to the precipice of a global depression, they now watch those individuals being rewarded with bonuses in amounts that no working family will ever see in a lifetime of sweat equity put into their professions and their careers.

And they feel that it is unjust, that it is wrong. And they wonder how much longer this can continue. The sovereign American people want to know when their representative government will end the bailout of people such as AIG and restore order to our financial markets and justice to the taxpayers of the United States.

Too often we forget the lessons of history, and so I would like to remind us of one. From 1832, when President Andrew Jackson confronted the Second Bank of the United States, he said, "Gentlemen, I have had men watching you for a long time, and I am convinced that you have used the funds of the bank to speculate in the breadstuffs of the country. When you won, you divided the profits amongst you, and when you lost, you charged it to the bank. You tell me that if I take the deposits from the bank and annul the charter, I shall ruin 10,000 families. That may be true, gentlemen, but that is your sin. Should I let you go on, you will ruin 50,000 families, and that would be my sin."

Toward the end of February we heard that the administration was in discussions with AIG to potentially reprivatize that institution, to have the government throw out their governing boards that have brought us to this point, take control and break them up and sell them off. That would be in the best interests of the American people.

For the continuation of the theory that a necessary evil requires propping them up and allowing them to profit at taxpayer expense for the misfeasance that they have wrought would be unjust. Because, as Andrew Jackson also pointed out, there are no necessary evils in government.

It is time for the American people's representative government to take swift and decisive action, stop the bleeding of the taxpayers, put AIG out of our misery and help restore confidence and stability to America's financial markets.

IRANIAN THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, while much of the attention here in Congress is focused on the difficulties here at home, as we have heard in speeches this evening, rising unemployment rates, home mortgage foreclosures, increasing health care costs, stock market decline, I rise tonight to remind us that we cannot forget about the pressing challenges to global stability and our national security interests posed by Iran.

One of the best ways to understand the seriousness of the Iranian threat is to listen to the words of its leaders. Iran's President has called the Holocaust a lie, has said that Israel "must be wiped off the map" and frequently speaks about a future world in which "Israelis will be eradicated" and Israel no longer exists. Iran's supreme leader joined in this hateful refrain recently when he called Israel a cancerous tumor.

The hatred of Iran's leaders is not just directed at Israel. Ahmadinejad has called American objectives and influence "Satanic" and has spoken be-

fore crowds that chant "death to America." Such aggressive and intolerable words are not just simply rhetoric. They represent the policies of a government committed to terror and destruction.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and is pursuing a nuclear program in defiance of three United Nations Security Council resolutions. Iran's support for terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas have enabled these organizations to carry out attacks on Israel and kill innocent civilians. With training and other assistance from Iran, Hamas increased the range of its rockets so now 1 million Israelis are within the scope of attack.

Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons threatens Israel, other nations in the region and our U.S. national security. No government that calls for the complete destruction of another nation should be allowed to have nuclear weapons. Yet Iran continues to move closer and closer to being capable of constructing such a weapon.

Although Iran reportedly does not currently have a sufficient amount of highly-enriched uranium to build a nuclear weapon, Iran does possess enough low-enriched uranium that can be converted into material needed to create an atomic bomb. Using existing centrifuges, Iran could enrich its low-level uranium to that of weapons grade in several months.

Time is not on our side. The Obama administration must back engagement with tougher sanctions and guard against Iranian diversions and delays. Appropriate economic, political, and diplomatic means are the best tools we have to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Last year I cosponsored legislation that declared it was in the national interests of the U.S. to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and urged the President to impose tough sanctions on Iran, specifically its banks engaged in proliferation activities and companies doing business with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

□ 1945

I also voted in favor of legislation that expanded the types of entities in Iran that are subject to sanction and allowed state and local governments and individuals to divest in any company that invests in Iran's energy sectors.

America's efforts must go further. I support sanctioning Iran's Central bank and foreign banks that conduct transactions with sanctioned Iranian entities. Efforts to prohibit the export to Iran of refined petroleum products should be pursued.

Israel is one of America's closest allies and plays a central role in the peace and security of the most volatile region of the world. We must continue to demonstrate our support for our Israeli friends in the face of continued defiance and threats.

A nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable. I urge my colleagues in Congress

and the Obama administration to act with the urgency this situation demands and devote the necessary attention to this serious threat. While there are problems at home that require our attention, we must not waiver in our efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional advocates. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand that all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens and congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens continues to be the focal point for our legislative work in political activity.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to our chairperson, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. First, let me, Mr. Speaker, thank Representative FUDGE and her staff for working with the staff of the Congressional Black Caucus to organize the CBC Special Order every Monday that Congress is in session. This takes quite a bit of time and commitment, but Congresswoman FUDGE, I just want you to know, you continue to play such an important role by ensuring that our voices are heard, that the country hears with regard to the posi-

tions of the Congressional Black Caucus, and our work, and I want to thank you and your staff for your steady and consistent work on this.

Tonight, of course, as Congresswoman FUDGE indicated, we're talking about the foreclosure crisis. As we all know, the roots of this current economic crisis are grounded in the housing market, the explosion of the subprime markets, and the unregulated and uncontrolled growth of the derivatives market that drove some of our largest financial services companies into bankruptcy.

We have to be truthful about this. The economic and fiscal policies of the Bush administration have left our country in a mess. They created this mess.

Many of us—and I remember this very vividly—we warned about this impending housing crisis years ago. As a member of the Financial Services Committee for 8 years, I remember expressing my concern about the housing bubble and the subprime loans that were fueling the housing crisis and also the consequences to our economy if the bubble ever popped. But our warnings fell on deaf ears.

I consistently questioned former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan about the housing bubble. Coming from California, we saw this each and every day—the increasing rates of foreclosure and the rapid growth of subprime and other exotic home mortgages. But, as this crisis was brewing, the Bush administration, the Federal Reserve, and HUD turned a dead ear.

Now, equity in one's home is really the primary path in our country for accumulating wealth, to send one's children to college, to start a small business, and to really enhance the quality of life. Now, this American Dream of homeownership has turned into a nightmare for millions.

The impact of foreclosure also extends far beyond the personal tragedy of the family that loses their home. The foreclosure crisis now has reduced property values throughout the neighborhood. It reduces the revenues for local and State governments. It causes increased prices in the rental markets. The abandoned homes often become the blight of our communities.

We took a bus tour in my own community and saw neighborhoods just totally in shambles as a result of homes that had been foreclosed on.

Unfortunately, predatory lending targeted vulnerable populations. Predatory lenders went after communities of color, went after individuals they knew were vulnerable, and were targets. To me, that should be looked at very seriously, and hopefully one of these days some will be prosecuted for that.

When we tried to encourage the banks to participate in voluntary foreclosure prevention programs to help families in distress, they balked and made every excuse to avoid participating.

Now, millions more families are threatened with bankruptcy and foreclosure. AIG—this is unbelievable—AIG can provide what, \$165 million in bonuses, taxpayer dollars? This is criminal. It's wrong. It's immoral.

For much of the time that I sat on the Financial Services Committee and its subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, I can tell you that much of the work was focused on affordable housing. In fact, I can remember sitting in a subcommittee hearing talking to then-Congressman now-Senator BERNIE SANDERS from Vermont, sketching out the outlines of legislation creating the Federal Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Although I'm glad we were finally able to get this through the Congress, we are all acutely aware of the funding problems we are seeing now as a result of the foreclosure and economic crisis that we are facing today.

So there is much, much work to be done. That is why many of us are pushing for a moratorium. And I think we need a moratorium on foreclosures. We have been pushing for this from the start of the crisis. That's why we worked to push at every point to include significant and meaningful foreclosure relief and to keep people in their homes, including bankruptcy reform.

But it hasn't been easy, especially given the Bush administration's disastrous economic policies that I mentioned earlier. But these policies range from deregulating the financial industry, to the war in Iraq. Yes, this war in Iraq, \$10 billion a month has been part of this huge problem. These tax cuts to the rich, which created this financial mess.

I mean, this is really an unbelievable moment that this administration has stepped up to the plate on to move forward to help turn this economy around.

Despite the resistant Bush administration, at least we were able to include important Neighborhood Stabilization Funding—over \$8.25 million for my own city last year—in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. Again, thanks to the consistent and effective work of Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS.

Today, finally a new day has dawned and we have hope because the majority in Congress and President Obama understand that we can and we must use every available tool to address this crisis head on.

The Congressional Black Caucus fought hard, fought hard, led by Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to ensure that an additional \$2 billion in Neighborhood Stabilization Funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was included. Not enough, but it's a start.

I'm pleased that Secretary Geithner and the President have announced a \$75 billion plan to keep families in their homes and to keep home ownership affordable.

Even with all of our efforts, we all know the enormity and the gravity of this situation, and this requires much more. We have the obligation of making the dream of home ownership accessible to all Americans and to help them achieve those dreams by limiting these unscrupulous lenders—and I mean they are unscrupulous; these unscrupulous brokers—and they are unscrupulous; and these real estate agents, who really seek to profit at the expense of the people that they purport to serve.

We are not casting a net on all of these individuals and institutions, but I think the data shows us that there's been a lot of bad faith, there's been a lot of activity in the financial services and in the real estate industry that really caused us to question a lot of the practices of some of these individuals. I think that there must be more accountability and more oversight and some need to be called on the carpet as a result.

Finally, let me just say that I have to congratulate our Speaker for helping to take strong steps. Chairman FRANK, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS. These individuals work day and night to help us figure out ways to help families in distress, and our bills to improve FHA to create grants to provide home buyers with the incentives to strengthen the oversight of this mortgage industry, which has gone wild, if you ask me.

This movement and some of these initiatives I think will help begin to mitigate some of the damage of this housing crisis. But without the safety net of the courts, the average homeowner will still too often be left to the rise and fall of the markets and the whims of the mortgage marketers. So bankruptcy reform must be enacted.

So, thank you, again, Congresswoman FUDGE, for organizing this Special Order. Thank you for allowing us to raise the alarm once again and to sound the alarm so that the country understands that we are on the case day and night, and this is quite a moment and it's quite a mess that we are faced with as a result of the last 8 years. But I am confident that with President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and our leadership, that we are going to dig ourselves out of this hole.

Thank you, and I yield back.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our Chair, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), for her leadership, for her ability to keep the issues that are really pertinent and pressing on the CBC agenda. Madam Chair, I thank you.

I would now like to yield to the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her leadership in organizing this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order this evening. I'd also like to thank Representative FUDGE for yielding so that I may discuss how fore-

closures are adversely affecting so many African American communities—communities in my district and throughout the country. I also want to commend her for her leadership role in organizing us around the issues that have been of such concern and are so critical to the strength and the underpinning of the communities that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus represent.

Let me start by joining my chairwoman, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, in calling for the moratorium on mortgage foreclosures. Tonight, I rise as a member of the 11th Congressional District to state how foreclosures have devastated the lives of two individuals that I represent.

First, there's Mr. Simeon Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson is an 86-year-old retiree from Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He worked for more than 20 years as a chef at the Long Island College Hospital.

In 1975, he bought a three-story brownstone in my district. This benevolent man would grow tomatoes and callaloo leaves—those of you from the Caribbean know what callaloo is—it's sort of a spinach—in his garden and, according to his daughter, would love to give the excess to his neighbors and friends at no cost, as he would cook the rest of it.

But around 3 years ago, a mortgage broker sold Mr. Ferguson, at the age of 83, a new \$450,000 option adjustable rate mortgage that would almost certainly put his home into foreclosure.

□ 2000

Mr. Ferguson had no attorney present at the time during the closing and believed he had made a good deal.

To make matters worse, Mr. Ferguson had dementia, a condition he was diagnosed with in 2005, and had only his Social Security and a pension as sources of income. So this gentleman of Jamaican descent could easily forget to make a mortgage payment that could balloon to such a frightening amount that it would be insurmountable to pay back. Mr. Ferguson is a victim of predatory lending, and now he may lose his home.

Low income, elderly people are experiencing widespread theft of their equity. Elderly people are simply more susceptible to abusive predatory lending practices. Home equity scams are appealing to financial predators because the money is substantially easy to find, and the elderly can be induced into losing the equity in their homes and, even worse, becoming homeless through predatory lending, foreclosure rescue scams, and estate planning. The mortgage foreclosure crisis has had a profoundly injurious impact on our seniors.

Now, as this is the month of March and it is Women's History Month, I thought it would be good to share some of the impact of this crisis on the women of our Nation.

By 2010, women will head almost 28 percent of all households in this Na-

tion. Of families living in poverty in 2001, 50.9 percent were women-headed households with no spouse present. But, in fact, the tremendous growth in the number of women filing for bankruptcy shows that economic instability for women reaches also into the middle class. Unmarried women accounted for 30 percent of the growth in homeowners from 1994 to 2002. Women account for a larger share of the subprime loans than of prime loans. Women are particularly vulnerable to predatory lenders. Women are particularly vulnerable to financial hardship. Older women are at greatest risk. Older women may be open to promises of ready cash if they live on modest fixed incomes that do not cover property tax increases, necessary home repairs, and unanticipated medical expenses. Women are especially susceptible to financial hardship.

I want to share with you now one of the stories of another one of my constituents. Her name is Ms. Waver Brickhouse. At age 69, Ms. Brickhouse is a gray-haired, soft-spoken woman from the Brownsville section of my district. She is a victim of mortgage fraud, and now may have her home put into foreclosure, too. She turned to what she believed to be a home rescue firm, who then secretly sold her home and added at least \$150,000 of fraudulent mortgage debt. This retired City Parks Department worker said in a recent New York Times article, and I quote, "I am going to drown in debt. I feel like it is just a matter of time until I am out on the street with my children."

However, these stories are not irregular in my district. African American seniors in New York and all across this Nation are at risk of losing homes they worked so hard for decades to some day acquire full equity of their property, but at this moment some are facing homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, just listen to the alarming numbers. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, by the fall of 2007, one in four homeowners with subprime mortgages lived in neighborhoods in my district such as Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant, and these mortgages were in foreclosure. In 2008, Federal data reported that there are 5,861 foreclosures in Brooklyn alone. And the Center for Responsible Lending projected that, in 2009, there will be 435 foreclosures in my district, and within the next 4 years that number will rise to 1,448.

Communities such as the one I just mentioned as well as others throughout the Nation collectively lost as much as \$92 billion in wealth over the last 8 years resulting from predatory lending practices within the subprime mortgage crisis.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I intend to introduce legislation. My bill is entitled the Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2009. This bill will provide funding to the National NeighborWorks Association for mortgage foreclosure

mitigation activities. NeighborWorks has been instrumental in partnering with the State of New York Mortgage Agency to not only promote homeownership in underserved communities such as Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and Flatbush, but they also provide foreclosure counseling that could some day help predatory victims like Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Brickhouse.

In addition, I recently voted for H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009, which allows for mortgage modifications through the bankruptcy court, and I also support applying the FDIC model. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has pioneered a promising approach that, even with some limitations, would strengthen incentives to prevent foreclosures and greatly boost the number of successful loan modifications.

I commend President Obama and his administration for their ongoing efforts to mitigate the damage and assist our families in staying in their homes. But we must also look at ways to advocate for legal reform that would ultimately prevent the elderly from losing their homes. So I urge my colleagues tonight to work together with the CBC to take the lead in addressing the foreclosure crisis and, more important, mitigate the racial disparities of predatory lending and its impact on African American seniors. I want to thank you again, my colleague and the leader of this special order, Congresswoman FUDGE from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, for being a beacon of light this evening to those in our communities who are really struggling to keep their heads above water and, most important, their dignity.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to thank my friend and the outspoken representative from the 11th District of New York. She stands for her people, and I am so appreciative of her participation this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to one who has been so helpful during the CBC hour, who has provided me guidance and support, and I call my co-anchor. And that would be the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, for organizing yet another time for us to speak to our colleagues and to the American people on an issue of great importance to them and to all of us. And I want to also thank Chairwoman LEE for her leadership, and our colleagues for joining us this evening, and for their leadership for introducing measures like the Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2009, to be introduced by Congresswoman CLARKE who just spoke.

Mr. Speaker, members of the Congressional Black Caucus are pleased that we are finally beginning to see what may be a glimmer of hope that we will be able to help our country and those most affected climb out of the worst fiscal crisis since the Great De-

pression, a crisis caused by greed, and where the most vulnerable people are the ones suffering the consequences as we have heard this evening.

If one wants to truly fix a problem, one must fix it at its root causes, and the root cause of this current crisis is the housing bubble and the subprime mortgages and the way those were pooled together and then securitized. The initial remedies shored up the government-sponsored enterprises like Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and the banks, but the homeowners were for far too long left holding the bag, an empty bag at that, and, unfortunately, misplaced blame.

At the heart of the American Dream has always been the dream of owning one's home. Unfortunately, too many Americans have seen this dream seriously distorted and deferred by the unhealthy antiregulation environment that gave lenders free rein to push products to unsuspecting customers who simply wanted a chance at that dream. There were 2.3 million foreclosure filings last year.

While some have blamed homeowners for biting off more than they could chew, the truth is that average Americans approach their bankers like they do their doctors, in an atmosphere of trust and vulnerability, and most never imagined that they would be approved if their lender didn't think they could keep up with their payments. But this is not the time for blame, it is the time for action. And I also rise to applaud President Obama, the Democratic-led Congress, Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and others, who have come together to formulate an aggressive campaign to turn around this crisis which has threatened homeowners across this country.

President Barack Obama's comprehensive Homeowner Affordability and Stability plan will help stem foreclosures, keep families in their homes, and stop the plunge in home values for all homeowners. The President and this Congress have moved aggressively to help those in bankruptcy get a loan modification agreement, to help those who are underwater and in need of refinancing get a chance at a new start, and those who are in danger of foreclosure to avoid it altogether by being able to work it out with their banks and lending institutions.

By passing the Helping Families Save Their Home Act, the House has moved towards bringing fairness to families by giving them the same rights to keep their home as someone who owns two or three homes. Without spending one Federal dollar, it gives bankruptcy judges the chance to modify existing mortgages for families who file Chapter 13 so that they can make payments and stay in their homes. It also gives lenders more confidence to modify loans by protecting them from some lawsuits, and strengthens the FHA's Hope for Homeowners program by reducing fees and offering incentives for lenders.

Earlier, the Obama administration revealed the details of other parts of their recovery plan for homeowners aimed at helping those with existing Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgages to refinance, and those who are not yet in foreclosure but are struggling to stay away from it to get a modification from their lending institution.

While the Obama administration has made it clear that not everyone will qualify for help, it is still true that millions can keep their homes under this initiative, saving families, neighborhoods, communities, and, indeed, our economy, from further decline.

There are many people in organizations in addition to the leaders I named earlier who played a role in getting us to this point, and I would be remiss if I did not mention the NAACP's efforts to demonstrate that minority communities were being unfairly targeted with these toxic mortgages. Many have been devastated. The NAACP has filed suit against at least one bank for targeting communities of color for subprime mortgages, and we congratulate them and stand with them on this effort. The Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive Caucus also played important roles in ensuring that the focus was expanded to include the homeowner, not just the financial institutions, and that meaningful remedies were put in place for them.

These are all meaningful steps to address the mortgage mess that has been the catalyst to a severe domestic economic downturn that has resonated globally. Our President's plan and the laws that we have passed will not only help everyone who is in or threatened with foreclosure, but we hope that many millions of homeowners who are in trouble will be able to keep their homes.

We are concerned, though, that some of the financial institutions have been turning down Federal help, ostensibly because they don't like the strings that are attached, the oversight, and the requirement for transparency. Accountability and transparency is exactly what would have kept us out of this mess and what is needed going forward, whether they take the money or not.

The White House, HUD, Treasury, and Congress must use any authority that we have to ensure that the financial institutions who themselves have been the recipients of bailouts by the billions, and even those who are refusing, to ensure that they will fully participate in the homeowner rescue initiatives and extend the lifeline that many homeowners need and are praying for.

Fixing the root cause of the problem and making American homeowners whole again, restoring the American Dream, is what will begin to restore confidence in our government's ability to put us on a stable economic course, and what will finally begin to put our country on the road to financial recovery.

I thank you again for hosting this special hour. It has been my pleasure

to work with you on this, and I look forward to doing some more of this in the future.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so very much. I would very much like to thank my colleague for all of her help and support during the CBC hour, and look forward to working with her as well.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from the State of Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has been a strong voice in our Congress for years for the people who are most in need.

□ 2015

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Allow me to thank the gentlelady from Ohio for really taking up the very important mantle of leadership in communicating to our colleagues why we really need to be in a team effort. I was with Senator Rodney Ellis, a State senator in my State, just yesterday. We have to use time when we can, and that was Sunday. We were standing up, along with certainly many members of the State legislature and many Members here in the House, on the great need for receiving stimulus dollars and unemployment dollars in the State of Texas. \$555 million is presently being rejected by this Governor of our State.

And the quote that comes to mind from that State senator was that when people are hurting or unemployed or in foreclosure, they don't see Democrats or Republicans. They just see pain. And that is why I think it is important that we convey to our colleagues that their constituents don't see a Democratic or Republican Congressperson. They just see a major dilemma from which they are wondering how they can get out.

So this evening, I would like to emphasize something that seems to have been lost, and that is that this ongoing foreclosure crisis was percolating way before the inauguration of our present President. And in fact, I'm reading from a document that was dated 2006, and it says "foreclosures up 72 percent from last year." That would have been 2005. That was the last administration. The previous administration was a Republican administration. But I imagine that this number, 72 percent, was not coded according to Democrat or Republican homeowners. But it did say that it was up 72 percent. And it goes on to say that "national foreclosure filings continued to climb in the first 3 months of 2006, evidence that more U.S. homeowners are struggling to stay current on their monthly mortgage payments."

Why, then, wasn't it addressed by the administration during that time? That is 2006, "a total of 323,102 properties nationwide entered some stage of foreclosure in the first quarter of 2006." Again, it mentions "a 72 percent year-over-year increase from the first quarter of 2005 and a 38 percent increase from the previous quarter." It specifically talks about the fact that Texas, Florida and California report the most foreclosures. Now we are a prosperous

State, or at least we are defined as such. It must be because we have government officials suggesting that we don't need unemployment dollars. Texas reported the most first-quarter foreclosures of any State with 40,236, and Florida reported the second most with 29,636, and California was a close third with 29,537 properties entering some stage of foreclosure in the first quarter, again, this is 2006. And let me just say I do know this is 2009.

I think it is important to note that we did not create this crisis. The election of 2008 didn't all of a sudden make it where people are foreclosing. This has been happening. And what we are trying to do is to emphasize that we have to act now. That is why the President is so interested, the administration is so interested in making sure that there is a moratorium, that there is \$75 billion that is being set aside, something that we debated when we were working with the previous administration that you can't give then-Secretary of the Treasury a carte blanche utilization of then the \$350 billion. So many of us argued vehemently about that.

Let me say to my good friend from Ohio that these numbers are not ignoring the fact of how difficult it has been in the Midwest and in Ohio in particular. Again, this was emphasizing the high numbers of big States. But certainly it has Ohio. And it mentions, of course, that you, too, were in the midst of huge foreclosures. In 2006 it looks like you were in the 8,000, 9,000. You kept going up. In February you had 9,000. So you were going up, and the other States were going up as well, which means that this is not an issue for small States, big States, or middle States.

So I come to the floor really to suggest that we are in a crisis that has to be acted upon. That is why so many of us rallied around the Helping Homes legislation that is not a giveaway. It is not a refuge for deadbeats and people who can't handle their finances. It is really, as I indicate on the floor of the House, the bankruptcy provision is the little guy's helping hand, because we bailed out every large entity that we could possibly bail out. Just give the roll call of the big banks, the big investment houses, the big AIGs. We have bailed them out.

When I got on the floor to debate this bankruptcy provision, which we have been trying for a number of years, it would have been helpful if the previous administration had allowed this to go forward in 2006 with these high numbers. And then we could have had individual, responsible families who simply wanted to get time, that is what the bankruptcy does. Nobody goes to the bankruptcy court and says "take my house." We are trying to keep them from going through that humiliating experience of seeing your house auctioned off. And all of us have seen the video on television where we see families sit there with tears in their eyes.

Yes, some people benefit by maybe being able to buy a house. But mostly the people with tears in their eyes, some hoping they could buy it back, others watching their house peter away in an auction process. The Helping Homes that I know my colleague voted on and understood how important it was as a lawyer and former mayor and understands about the tax base that just deteriorates when we lose our home, this just allows the homeowner to go into the courthouse with a trained bankruptcy judge who is not prone to go lightly on people who are frivolously coming in masquerading themselves, never paid a bill in their life, but it allows them, just like you've allowed the big corporations that have gone into bankruptcy to be able to reorder.

And so, it is truly important to ensure, to help the little person, that this bankruptcy bill that has been passed by the House and the Senate, as I understand it, it may be that we move this bill along that will allow the cramdown that everybody talked about, you're going to disadvantage the lender. No, you're not. Because there are now different provisions that puts in that any value that comes through the sale of that house goes back to the lender, there are protections about the cramdown, there are notices that have to be given so that maybe you can modify the loan without going into bankruptcy. And if any lender is smart, they will do that. But at the bottom line, this bankruptcy provision helps hardworking Americans wherever they live to save their house with dignity. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson-Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Fudge, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalez can go in and fix that problem through the courts and save the house for them and their four children or two children. In USA Today, there was an article that you, as a former mayor, would understand, the dumbing down of the amount of money that is going to school districts because we were reaching a crisis of how many homes were being foreclosed and seeing the tax base just dwindle away, in fact, I would say, go rapidly down a fast moving tube.

So it is a ripple effect of not only destroying neighborhoods, which is why these neighborhood stabilization monies in the stimulus package are crucial, but also destroying obviously paramount families, lives, and then the ability to pay for the education of your children, and then, of course, the ultimate dump of a whole town, whole city, a whole hamlet, village, being just blocks and blocks of foreclosed homes.

So I think it is important that we begin to stand on the floor of the House to support America's families. And I can't help but as I speak with you this evening and to my colleagues, I just

have to hold this up because it certainly shows the strength of our President, it says, this is a headline, Obama berates AIG and vows to try and block bonuses. Well, we know there are some legal issues that have been represented to us that provides a problem, but I will just simply say that having practiced in the courts, it is a shame that we couldn't just say, "sue me," which would have just had those individuals who thought that they were owed the bonus to be able to go into the courthouse and try to get the money.

I think I would like to commend our Speaker who has indicated that these moneys should then be paid back now by AIG. If you figured that you couldn't have any other out, you couldn't stand the impact of a lawsuit for people who were getting these huge bonuses, \$160 billion plus, then why don't you go ahead and put on the requirement that they should pay the taxpayers back. But I use this as an example that we have to be able to help these hardworking taxpayers who themselves have suffered because we have not been able to provide the relief.

I just want to add that new home sales have fallen by about 50 percent. One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth which raises the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006, and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. That is the sadness of it. Many people were going to use this for retirement, had the ability to pass on a debt-free house to their children. This was the bottom line or the first line of wealth for many Americans. We were told to buy that wonderful nest egg, buy that home that will be a nest egg. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The Nation could be facing a housing depression something worse than the recession.

Of course, we know about the TARP bill that has helped us to move forward. But then again, we realize that there have been, certainly in the first issuance of the dollars, these major problems. And so that is why we have turned our attention, and I want to congratulate Chairman CONYERS, who had been on this issue, in the previous administration we had attempted to get the language put in the TARP.

And many times, Congresswoman FUDGE, the Congress doesn't get the recognition. And certainly none of us are saying me, me, me or I, I, I. And we also know that we are in a business that we are responsible enough to take criticism. But they need to know that we were fighting the Judiciary Committee to get the bankruptcy language into the TARP legislation a way long time ago, recognizing the importance. But it would not, could not be moved forward because of opposition from the then-White House.

And so it is important to note tonight that I am very glad that you had

this particular Special Order so that we could provide the basis of the work that we have done and also ask our colleagues to encourage all of their constituents to seek foreclosure modification in their loan, to not sit by silently, that the banks are now under a burden to not foreclose but to be able to talk to you about loan modification. Everyone should seek loan modification now. Do not suffer in silence, because we realize that it is not only a predatory lending issue which has occurred, but there are people who have regular loans that may be finding themselves in difficulty and have the right for loan modification.

We do want to say that we want to get out of this issue that whenever we see certain economic or certain neighborhoods that that particular lender is a prime target for subprime mortgages. Now some people have indicated to me that subprime mortgages have been used sometimes favorably to allow someone with some challenges. But certainly subprime should not equate to predatory. And there has been predatory lending going on. And so these subprimes have equated to that. And I want the bankers to be able to be more creative than to see certain neighborhoods, certain, if you will, ethnicities or racial groups, and the only thing you can give them is a subprime when their particular portfolio suggests that they are equal or able to take on any regular loan. And what happened is they put more people in subprime based on ethnicity and race.

□ 2030

So I wanted to add as I draw to a close, and I welcome your participating in this legislation that I intend to drop, and that is to ensure that individuals who are in mortgage foreclosure because of subprime and predatory lending will not have that foreclosure on their credit score. You know what happens with credit scoring. When you go into a bank and they pull that score up, hardworking families suffer because of the credit score. Probably they were thrown into the subprime and predatory markets because of that.

So the language says in particular that a foreclosure on a subprime mortgage of a consumer may not be taken into account by any person in preparing or calculating the credit score as defined in subsection F(2) for or with respect to the consumer.

Subprime defined. The term "subprime mortgage" means any consumer credit transaction secured by the principal dwelling of this consumer that bears or otherwise meets the terms and characteristics of such a transaction that the board has defined as subprime mortgage.

So if you have been a victim of predatory lending, we will add that. And you have made every effort through loan modification or you have been caught up in this whirl of confusion, then we don't want to impact your credit score

even more, make it worse, if you will, by adding this foreclosure to you; and, therefore, making it even more impossible for you to then move into a home or buy another home or to transition to get your life in order.

I want our colleagues to realize that this is going to be an ongoing concern. And the fact that it is an ongoing concern means we have to work with our local communities. That is why I have supported the TARP funding to be as responsive to community, regional and private banks as they are to the big banks. I think it is important that we invest in the smaller banks by making sure that they get TARP funds. And I think it is enormously important for the President's mission that says that we should in fact for every dollar lent to these banks, they must lend it out, and we must lend it not only to those who are attempting to modify their loans, but to the new generation of homeowners. Let us not kill off the incentive for others to buy homes, co-ops, condominiums, brownstones, the two stories, the split levels, if you will, two families in one home scenario, we should not take away the American dream of a house.

I believe that if we can watch AIG with some sort of cavalier attitude, giving \$160 million in bonuses and not wanting to issue a report on where the moneys went, we can certainly be helpful to those who are struggling.

I would like to engage the gentle lady in a conversation, particularly as she comes from Ohio, and just get a sense of the impact that comes about when homes are foreclosed. With your experience as a former mayor and how important those local resources are, what happens to a community when there are massive foreclosures and that income doesn't come in any more?

Ms. FUDGE. There are a couple of things that I would like to address. Many people know that Cleveland, which is a major part of my district, has been one of the poorer cities in America for the last 3 years. So when we are talking about more than 10,000 vacancies in a city, which is the case in the city of Cleveland, not only does it destroy neighborhoods, but there are less resources to go to the school or to go to the city for city services, and all of the things that go along with tax dollars. As well, it deflates and devalues all of the property around it.

And it clogs the courts. The foreclosure process is a timing issue because of all the notice requirements. It is a domino effect. It hurts everything that you can think of that has to do with housing. But most importantly, it puts people on the street. We have thousands and thousands of people waiting to get into public housing. We have people who have moved in with other family members. Where do these people go? No one addresses the issue where do these people go. Everyone doesn't have a family that they can move in with. Everyone cannot get a voucher or stay with a friend. Where do these people go?

And then what is compounding the problem is we are now having landlords who have renters in their homes, and haven't told the renters they are in foreclosure. One day the renters wake up and they have a notice on their door saying that they have to move in three days. Or the sheriff saying you must move from these premises. So it becomes a very difficult experience to watch someone lose their home.

I am hopeful that some of the things that we have done in this Congress will stop the bleeding. We may not cure the problem over the short run, but I am very confident that we will over the long run. I certainly hope that some of these things are given a chance. We have given 8 years of opportunity to make things work and they haven't. Give us the same opportunity. I do believe our President is doing the right thing. It is just going to take some time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I think it is important for people to hear stories from all over the country. I think one of the salient points that you have made is how it puts people on the street and how it clogs the courts. Different from the bankruptcy proceedings which allows people to stay in their homes, the foreclosure proceeding is so long and protracted, most people will be abandoning doing their home before it concludes.

I thank the gentlelady from Ohio for being able to both express some of the outrage and pain. And this was not created under this administration. We are trying to be the problem solvers, and it would have just been great if we had looked at this issue from the administration's perspective in 2006 and before. We might then have been able to put our finger in the dike and help those who were on the verge of going over the cliff.

But now we are holding an enormous burden, and I guess the parting words are let's look at the people who are rolling up their sleeves. The media pundits who can criticize rain, if you will. If it is raining, they can criticize that. But people who are trying to build banks backs and make them responsive to our neighborhoods and school districts, let's look at the Federal legislation trying to help people modify their loans and keep them off the streets and save families and school districts. Why don't we listen to that explanation, which I am sure will give us a better understanding than national pundits who make their money off of worrying about whether it is raining and therefore if it is, that gives them a mouthful to criticize. I would rather stand with those who are trying to stand with the American people, and I believe that is what your Special Order has been about tonight. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the

prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally.

New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent. One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth which raises the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19 percent from their peak in 2006, and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that adversely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

I am glad that recently we have seen legislation on the floor the United States House of Representatives. I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed late last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP today has included language and we here today are continuing to engage in the dialogue to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosures. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures.

Because of the pervasive home foreclosures, federal legislation is necessary to curb the fall out from the subprime mortgage crisis. For consumers facing a foreclosure sale who want to retain their homes, Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code provides some modicum of protection. The Supreme Court has held that the exception to a Chapter 13's ability to modify the rights of creditors applies even if the mortgage is under-secured. Thus, if a Chapter 13 debtor owes \$300,000 on a mortgage for a home that is worth less than \$200,000, he or she must repay the entire amount in order to keep his or her home, even though the maximum that the mortgage would receive upon foreclosure is the home's value, i.e., \$200,000, less the costs of foreclosure.

I have long championed the rights of homeowners, especially those facing mortgage foreclosure. I have worked with the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to include language that would relax the bankruptcy provisions to allow those facing mortgage foreclosure to restructure their debt to avoid foreclosure.

Because I have long championed the rights of homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure in the recent TARP bill and before the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with Chairman CONYERS and his staff to add language in the Helping Americans Save Their Homes bill that would help Americans stay in their homes that

would make the bill stronger and that would help more Americans.

Specifically, I worked with Chairman CONYERS to ensure that section 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code would be amended to waive the mandatory requirement, under current law, that a debtor receive credit counseling prior to filing for bankruptcy relief. Under the amended language there is now a waiver that will apply where the debtor submits to the court a certification that the debtor has received notice that the holder of a claim secured by the debtor's principal residence may commence a foreclosure proceeding against such residence.

This is important because it affords the debtor the maximum relief without having to undergo a slow credit counseling process. This will help prevent the debtors credit situation from worsening, potentially spiraling out of control, and result in the eventual loss of his or her home.

The recent bill before Congress, Helping Homeowners Save Their Home Act, relaxes certain Bankruptcy requirements under Chapter 13 so that the debtor can modify the terms of the mortgage secured by his or her primary residence. This is an idea that I have long championed in the TARP legislation—the ability of debtors to modify their existing primary mortgages. The bill allows for a modification of the mortgage for a period of up to 40 years. Such modification cannot occur if the debtor fails to certify that it contacted the creditor before filing for bankruptcy. In this way, the language in the bill allows for the creditor to demonstrate that it undertook its “last clear” chance to work out the restructuring of the debt with its creditor before filing bankruptcy.

Importantly, the Act amends the bankruptcy code to provide that a debtor, the debtor's property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for fees and costs incurred while the Chapter 13 case is pending and that arises from a claim for debt secured by the debtor's principal residence.

Lastly, I worked to get language in the Helping Home Owners Save Their Homes Act that would allow the debtors and creditors to negotiate before a declaration of bankruptcy is made. I made sure that the bill addressed present situations at the time of enactment where homeowners are in the process of mortgage foreclosure. This was done with a view toward consistency predictability and a hope that things will improve.

RULES COMMITTEE

Over the past two years, debtors and average homeowners found themselves in the midst of a home mortgage foreclosure crisis of unprecedented levels. Many of the mortgage foreclosures were the result of subprime lending practices.

I have worked with my colleagues to strengthen the housing market and the economy, expand affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure, and strengthen consumer protections against risky loans in the future. Unfortunately, problems in the subprime mortgage markets have helped push the housing market into its worst slump in 16 years.

Before the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment to the Helping Americans Save Their Homes Act that would prevent homeowners and debtors, who were facing mortgage foreclosure as a result of the unscrupulous and unchecked lending of predatory lenders and financial institutions, from having their

mortgage foreclosure count against them in the determination of their credit score. It is an equitable result given that the debtors ultimately faced mortgage foreclosure because of the bad practices of the lender.

Simply put, my amendment would prevent homeowners who have declared mortgage foreclosure as a result of subprime mortgage lending and mortgages from having the foreclosure count against the debtor/homeowner in the determination of the debtor/homeowner's credit score.

Specifically, my amendment language was the following:

SEC. 205. FORBEARANCE IN CREATION OF CREDIT SCORE.

(a) IN GENERAL—Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘(h) FORECLOSURE ON SUBPRIME NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR CREDIT SCORES—

‘(1) IN GENERAL—A foreclosure on a subprime mortgage of a consumer may not be taken into account by any person in preparing or calculating the credit score (as defined in subsection (f)(2)) for, or with respect to, the consumer.

‘(2) SUBPRIME DEFINED—The term ‘subprime mortgage’ means any consumer credit transaction secured by the principal dwelling of the consumer that bears or otherwise meets the terms and characteristics for such a transaction that the Board has defined as a subprime mortgage.’

(b) REGULATIONS—The Board shall prescribe regulations defining a subprime mortgage for purposes of the amendment made by subsection (a) before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect at the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply without regard to the date of the foreclosure.

The homeowners should not be required to pay for the bad acts of the lenders. It would take years for a homeowner to recover from a mortgage foreclosure. My amendment would have strengthened this already much needed and well thought out bill.

I intend to offer a bill later this Congress to address this issue. I am delighted however that the Judiciary Committee has expressed their willingness to incorporate my language in the Conference language for this bill. Without a doubt, this issue is important to me and it is critical to Americans who are facing mortgage foreclosure and bankruptcy.

The HOPE for Homeowners (H4H) program was created by Congress to help those at risk of default and foreclosure refinance into more affordable, sustainable loans. H4H is an additional mortgage option designed to keep borrowers in their homes.

The program is effective from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2011.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

There are four ways that a distressed homeowner could pursue participation in the HOPE for Homeowners program:

1. Homeowners may contact their existing lender and/or a new lender to discuss how to qualify and their eligibility for this program.

2. Servicers working with troubled homeowners may determine that the best solution for avoiding foreclosure is to refinance the homeowner into a HOPE for Homeowners loan.

3. Originating lenders who are looking for ways to refinance potential customers out from

under their high-cost loans and/or who are willing to work with servicers to assist distressed homeowners.

4. Counselors who are working with troubled homeowners and their lenders to reach a mutually agreeable solution for avoiding foreclosure.

It is envisioned that the primary way homeowners will initially participate in this program is through the servicing lender on their existing mortgage. Servicers that do not have an underwriting component to their mortgage operations will partner with an FHA-approved lender that does.

Because I am committed to helping Americans obtain homes and remain in their homes, I support the HOPE for Homeowners Program. Indeed, I feel personally vindicated that Congress has set aside \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure, an issue that I have long championed in the 110th Congress.

HOUSING, FORECLOSURES, & TEXAS

Texas ranks 17th in foreclosures. Texas would have fared far worse but for the fact that homeowners enjoy strong constitutional protections under the state's home-equity lending law. These consumer protections include a 3 percent cap on lender's fees, 80 percent loan-to-value ratio (compared to many other states that allow borrowers to obtain 125 percent of their home's value), and mandatory judicial sign-off on any foreclosure proceeding involving a defaulted home-equity loan.

Still, in the last month, in Texas alone there have been 30,720 foreclosures and sadly 15,839 bankruptcies. Much of this has to do with a lack of understanding about finance—especially personal finance.

Last year, American's Personal income decreased \$20.7 billion, or 0.2 percent, and disposable personal income (DPI) decreased \$11.8 billion, or 0.1 percent, in November, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Personal consumption expenditures (PCE) decreased \$56.1 billion, or 0.6 percent. In India, household savings are about 23 percent of their GDP.

Even though the rate of increase has showed some slowing, uncertainties remain. Foreclosures and bankruptcies are high and could still beat last year's numbers.

Home foreclosures are at an all-time high and they will increase as the recession continues. In 2006, there were 1.2 million foreclosures in the United States, representing an increase of 42 percent over the prior year. During 2007 through 2008, mortgage foreclosures were estimated to result in a whopping \$400 billion worth of defaults and \$100 billion in losses to investors in mortgage securities. This means that one per 62 American households is currently approaching levels not seen since the Depression.

The current economic crisis and the foreclosure blight has affected new home sales and depressed home value generally. New home sales have fallen by about 50 percent.

One in six homeowners owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth raising the possibility of default. Home values have fallen nationwide from an average of 19% from their peak in 2006 and this price plunge has wiped out trillions of dollars in home equity. The tide of foreclosure might become self-perpetuating. The nation could be facing a housing depression—something far worse than a recession.

Obviously, there are substantial societal and economic costs of home foreclosures that ad-

versely impact American families, their neighborhoods, communities and municipalities. A single foreclosure could impose direct costs on local government agencies totaling more than \$34,000.

Recently, the Congress set aside \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure prevention. I have long championed that money be a set aside to address this very important issue. I believe in homeownership and will do all within my power to ensure that Americans remain in their houses.

BANKRUPTCY

We have come full circle in our discussion today. The bill before us today is on bankruptcy and mortgage foreclosures.

I have long championed in the first TARP bill that was introduced and signed late last Congress, that language be included to specifically address the issue of mortgage foreclosures. I had asked that \$100 billion be set aside to address that issue. Now, my idea has been vindicated as the TARP that was voted upon this week has included language that would give \$100 billion to address the issue of mortgage foreclosure. I am continuing to engage in the dialogue with Leadership to provide monies to those in mortgage foreclosure. I have also asked for modification of homeowners' existing loans to avoid mortgage foreclosure. I believe that the rules governing these loans should be relaxed. These are indeed tough economic times that require tough measures. Again, I feel a sense of vindication on this point, because this bill, H.R. 1106 addresses this point

CREDIT CRUNCH

A record amount of commercial real estate loans coming due in Texas and nationwide the next three years are at risk of not being renewed or refinanced, which could have dire consequences, industry leaders warn. Texas has approximately \$27 billion in commercial loans coming up for refinancing through 2011, ranking among the top five states, based on data provided by research firms Foresight Analytics LLC and Trepp LLC. Nationally, Foresight Analytics estimates that \$530 billion of commercial debt will mature through 2011. Dallas-Fort Worth has nearly \$9 billion in commercial debt maturing in that time frame.

Most of Texas' \$27 billion in loans maturing through 2011—\$18 billion—is held by financial institutions. Texas also has \$9 billion in commercial mortgage-backed securities, the third-largest amount after California and New York, according to Trepp.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the bills that the Congress has worked on since November 2008 will do yeoman's work helping America get back on the right track with respect to the economy and the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Ms. FUDGE. I want to thank my colleague who is obviously an outstanding lawyer and leader for participating in this hour.

Mr. Speaker, certainly, as you have listened to my colleagues this evening, helping the economy recover is foremost in all of our minds. At this time in our Nation's history, it is important that Congress ensure that Americans have jobs to support themselves and their families, as well as homes to raise these families in. To fix the economy, we must address the foreclosure crisis.

Foreclosures affect all races and incomes. It doesn't just stop in the poor

cities, it affects every community in every State. However, the effects on the black community are especially pronounced because of the lower level of homeownership. For many black families, home equity is the main source of wealth because most have lower incomes, little to no savings or investments, and no life insurance policies.

The decline of the housing market is at the center of our economic crisis. Home prices have dropped 18 percent in the last quarter of 2008. It is estimated that each foreclosed home reduces surrounding property values by as much as 9 percent, causing increased concern for even those who are not directly affected by the housing crisis. Nearly 6 million homes are facing foreclosure, and nearly one in five homeowners owes more than their home is worth, and many cannot afford to refinance.

The foreclosure crisis affects every sector of the population, and nearly every person in this Nation. Cities across the Nation are experiencing a crisis that imperils communities and cripples the economy. In my district, the Center For Responsible Lending projected 5,500 foreclosures in 2009—just in the 11th District—and 18,500 foreclosures over the next 4 years. Within the State of Ohio the projection is very grim: 87,500 foreclosures in 2009. In Cuyahoga County, 13,858 were foreclosed in 2008. Cleveland is one of the Nation's big cities in the most need due to its large population of poor families. The city has set aside nearly \$11 million to handle some 10,000 homes that have been abandoned primarily due to foreclosure. Much of that money, about \$7.5 million, goes to demolition, while the remainder takes care of vacant lots, boarding up windows, picking up trash, and mowing lawns. This money could be used to hire more police officers and to keep more teachers. But because of the risk that goes with abandoned neighborhoods, money needs to go towards foreclosed properties.

As we see far too often, for communities with foreclosed homes, it is a short road from nuisance to blight to crime. Blight affects a city's morale and slows economic growth and development. Abandoned homes also become harbors for criminal activity.

Typically, it is our inner cities that bear the brunt of vacant homes and community blight. But now it can be seen in each and every community, in every development and in every neighborhood. Even the affluent suburbs face the same problems. The suburb of Shaker Heights spent nearly \$1 million on foreclosed properties. The city of Euclid had to tear down 18 homes, and Cleveland Heights spent a great deal of money on maintenance on over 250 properties.

I spoke recently with Ms. Arnetta Parker, a long-time resident of Richmond Heights, Ohio, a nice, upper-middle-class suburb. She and her husband have resided in the area for over 35 years and are currently doing fine.

However, their community is struggling greatly. Her subdivision has about 80 homes, and on her street alone, four of those homes are vacant. She recalled one of the first times she saw a family be required to move out of their home and how much it hurt her to see a hardworking couple lose their home. The displaced couple had two kids, a teenage son who was very involved in sports and a very young girl. They were uprooted from what was familiar to them, from their schools, their friends and community. They became a part of the crisis.

Just this month, foreclosures.com, a Website that looks at the rise of foreclosures in the United States, found an increase in foreclosures of over 60 percent from January to February. The organization's president, Alexis McGee, opined if foreclosures continue unabated, then the United States could see 1.2 million homes back in lenders' hands by the end of this year.

The Center For Responsible Lending estimates there are 6,600 new foreclosures every day, and that equates to one foreclosure by one family that loses their home every 13 seconds.

This Nation cannot sustain a system in which mortgage servicers prefer foreclosure over mortgage modifications. The Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan creates incentives for lenders to modify mortgages by bringing mortgages more in line with the value of the home and should reduce the number of home foreclosures. It also encourages servicers to modify mortgages for at-risk homeowners before they are delinquent.

Recent reports show that homeowners are not the only ones suffering in this crisis. Renters are also becoming victims as their landlords lose property to foreclosure. Usually renters are not aware of the foreclosure proceedings. Once the lender has foreclosed, they often provide little notice to tenants before demanding that the tenants vacate the property. Forced from the property, renters may lose their security deposit and everything else they have.

To help insure that similar crises are averted in the future, regulations must be developed that combat mortgage fraud and predatory lending practices. In general, predatory lending covers those practices that are deemed deceptive or fraudulent, that manipulate borrowers through aggressive sales tactics, or that unfairly seize on the borrower's lack of understanding about loan terms.

Predatory lending strips borrowers of home equity, increases the homeowner's chances of foreclosure, and destabilizes communities. Vacant properties invite criminal activities and affect neighboring property values.

□ 2045

The most common predatory lending tactics include excessive fees and abusive prepayment penalties. For example, borrowers with high-interest loans

have a strong incentive to refinance as soon as their credit improves. However, as the Center for Responsible Lending estimates, up to 80 percent of all subprime mortgages carry a prepayment penalty. Homeowners become trapped by such provisions, leaving them unable to make cost-effective decisions.

Moreover, studies have shown that predatory lenders often target vulnerable groups, including minority groups, females, elderly, and low-income borrowers. The evidence is clear by the concentration of predatory loans in low-income and minority neighborhoods. Congress and President Obama have both designed legislation to curve the downward spiral in foreclosures. These plans are coordinated among major government and regulatory agencies to bring targeted relief to the American housing market and to homeowners.

The Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, H.R. 1106, is designed to stabilize the housing market by reducing foreclosures, and to help responsible, hardworking Americans who are losing their homes during this economic downturn. It could reduce foreclosures by 20 percent.

The bill ensures that those who seek recourse via chapter 13 can do so through a uniform process. Several important points about the bill are that it protects lenders from lawsuits, it fixes the Federal Housing Administration's HOPE for Homeowners Program by lowering the fees paid by borrowers and lenders, and by providing \$1,000 payments to servicers for each successful refinance of existing loans. It reduces current fees that have discouraged lenders from voluntarily participating. As a last resort, it allows bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of loans for families with existing mortgages, just as investors in vacation homes, real estate speculators, and corporations have been able to do for years. And it helps veterans, and others, to avoid foreclosure by allowing the Department of Veteran Affairs, the FHA, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to guarantee or ensure mortgage loans modified either out of court or in a bankruptcy case.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing the CBC to have a Special Order this evening. It is my pleasure to have anchored those hours.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET SPENDS TOO MUCH, TAXES TOO MUCH, AND BORROWS TOO MUCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for yielding, and I thank you for this opportunity and the kindness to be able to address this body on the issue of taxes. We're very excited to be able to have this opportunity.

I'm joined this evening by two wonderful colleagues, Mrs. Foxx of North Carolina, and also Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, who have indicated, also, willingness to speak to this important topic.

We see that there is a tremendous change that is about to occur in our Nation. And I just want to begin by talking about the real problem that we have at hand, and that's the issue of certainty versus uncertainty in our economy.

There are many people right now who have been unwilling to make decisions about investing in the economy, spending money, buying something, should they save money, should they spend it, can they get a job? And the worry has been "certainty." What's going to happen next? They feel like one shoe has dropped, when will the other shoe drop? What's it going to be? What's going to happen? People are just nervous.

I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, I was back in my district this weekend, I'm sure you were, too, and people that I saw are very worried about what's coming down the horizon because they just saw, in the last 55, 60 days, they saw our Congress spend \$1 trillion dollars and more, once you count the debt service on the stimulus bill. They're very nervous when they see that level of spending. They've never heard of that before. It's historic, it's never happened before.

They saw that, and then right after that they saw us take up the appropriations bill for the rest of the year which spends for the Federal Government, and it's \$410 billion. And then they heard it had 9,000 earmarks contained in the bill. And they thought, what in the world is going on? I thought this was an emergency. I thought this was a time when we're supposed to be careful with our money. And the American people are socking away money as much as they can.

It was just only about a year or so ago that we saw that the savings rate in the United States was minus 1 percent. During the Great Depression, the savings rate was minus 1.5. What was the savings rate in January? It was plus 5 percent. It's plus 5 percent because the American people have figured out, we're in trouble. And so they are battening down the hatches and they're doing everything they can to make sure their ship is in order, their house is in order so they at least have a job and so that they can at least take care of their bills.

What has Congress' response been? It has been to spend \$1 trillion, and then \$410 billion—plus 9,000 earmarks contained in that bill—and sandwiched in between was something called a Fiscal Responsibility Summit. Now, people are scratching their heads saying, you people call yourselves fiscally responsible when you've just spent that kind of money, let alone what's happened with the Federal Reserve and all the money that the Federal Reserve has committed?

The reason why I'm bringing that up, Mr. Speaker, is because today marks a very important anniversary. I know Mr. GARRETT remembers this anniversary. It was 1 year ago today that for the very first time in the history of our country the Federal Reserve opened the discount window to a private investment bank called Bear Stearns. We all remember that, it was \$29 billion. Just preceding that, this body had spent the outrageous sum of \$168 billion in a stimulus package that was supposed to rescue our economy from diving into the doldrums. So what did our body do? We spent \$168 billion, and we got into helicopters and we dropped checks all across the United States and said, "Have a good time. Spend money so that our economy doesn't tank." Our economy tanked because people said you can't spend money like that and think that your house is going to be in order. So people got nervous, they got very worried.

Then they saw us bail out a private investment bank at \$29 billion. Well, it wasn't long after that that we heard that Freddie and Fannie, the secondary home loan mortgage companies, they were in bankruptcy. We had to bail them out. So the Federal taxpayer had to cough up \$200 billion to bail out Freddie and Fannie. This really scared people.

At the same time, the Federal Government took \$400 billion and infused that money into the Federal Home Loan Association. People thought, my stars, what's about to happen? Well, they didn't even catch a breath, and the Treasury Secretary said, now we need \$700 billion; we've got to have \$700 billion for the TARP program, which was to have money to be able to buy troubled assets, the mortgage security bailout.

And we were told we had to get this done within a week or the whole economy was going to fail. Well, we had that tussle, we had that struggle. And you remember, Mr. Speaker, that last September we were all here in this Chamber. We came in, the galleries were filled with people, the press was up in the press box; what were we going to do? We were going to pass this historic level of spending, \$700 billion, and the vote failed. It was a Monday. No one could believe it. So there was regrouping going on; took another vote, the vote passed. Only this time it was wrapped in another \$110 billion worth of very expensive gift wrap called "vote buying." And so that bill was passed. Pretty soon, the year went by, and between this body and the Federal Reserve trillions of dollars flew through the door.

People were looking for hope and change; I was looking for hope and change. And when January 20 came and the Obama administration was sworn in, what did we see? We saw over \$1 trillion worth of spending out of the gate. And what did it do? Has it calmed the waters? Has it brought us certainty? Are you kidding? We saw GDP

tank. We saw the Dow Jones Industrial Average go to such historic lows, no one could believe it. We were looking at 6000 on the Dow Jones. We saw job losses spike through the charts, unbelievable levels of job losses. Where is the certainty?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm here to say, there is a certainty that we can tell the American people tonight, and that certainty is that their taxes are just about to have the roof blown off. They're going to have the roof blown off. And it was here in this body, not too long ago, when President Obama stood right here and he told the American people in that camera right up there, he said, "I will not raise taxes on 95 percent of the American people. You can take that to the bank." And in the course of his remarks, he said that he is going to pass the cap and trade tax. That's the new tax on energy, which 100 percent of Americans are going to be spending.

That's what we want to talk about tonight, Mr. Speaker. We have to talk about this tonight. We've been talking about all the spending; now it's time to talk about the taxing. And it's really a shame because the time to have been talking about taxing is when we were talking about spending.

We didn't even have a paragraph of conversation on this floor about how we're going to pay for all this spending. Congress just had a sugar high. It's as though every Member of Congress just ingested a 24 pack of Mountain Dew and said, "Hallelujah. I'm on a sugar high. We're going to spend money and we're going to rev this economy up." Well, I'm telling you, if you had a 24 pack of Mountain Dew, you would not only be on a sugar high, you would be zooming, but you would crash. And that's about what we are going to be seeing. That crash is called taxes, Mr. Speaker. And the American people haven't seen anything yet when they open up their tax bills.

At this point, I would like to yield to the gentlelady from North Carolina to take it from there. And we're going to go in a game of tennis here tonight. We're going to volley back and forth and we will have a great discussion on taxes.

I yield to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx).

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from Minnesota. It's a little hard to follow her. She is so energized and so enthusiastic. The rest of us here tonight are that way, too, but we don't have the same presence she has, but we are so fortunate to have her in the Republican Caucus.

I want to add to what she is saying, and then yield in a couple of minutes to our colleague from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), who has a lot to say about this subject tonight.

I want to point out that our colleague from Minnesota has set the stage for what we're going to talk about tonight, and there are lots of things to try to remember. She has

gone over a whole list of all of the spending that was done last year, what has been proposed so far this year. But I want to help people just keep in mind three simple concepts about what has been happening in this Congress so far.

The budget, which the Democrats support, President Obama's budget, spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. Those are three simple concepts for us to keep in mind. We can talk a lot about bailouts, stimulus, budget, omnibus budget—there are many, many terms. I know the American people have difficulty keeping up with them because I have difficulty keeping up with them. It's like you're in a whirlwind here with so many things happening.

The Democrats are living what the Chief of Staff of the President and the former head of the conference here said. He said, "Let's never let a crisis go to waste." He wanted, with a Democrat-controlled Congress and a Democrat in the White House—talk about being on a sugar high, that is really a sugar high because this is the first time in over 8 years that they have had that situation. And I think it's important that we point that out because there are still many people in this country who don't realize that the Democrats are in charge, they've been in charge. In fact, our economy started tanking when the Democrats took over the Congress in 2007. I think I have a chart to show that; but again, I think it's really, really important to talk about that.

I want to say that our colleagues who were speaking just before we were made a comment about how it's Congress' job to assure jobs for Americans. Well, the budget they support and the policies that they have followed thus far have done just the opposite. They've done everything they can to kill jobs in this country. And let me point it out.

The Democrats took control of the Congress in January of 2007. That's not something they like to be reminded of. They want to say that all of the economic problems that we have in this country are the result of George Bush's presidency. However, we had 55 straight months of job growth up until January of 2007; that's when the Democrats took control.

And look what started happening? This is the chart. The graph is a little bit tough to read, but this is the loss of jobs going up. We probably should have had it going down to make it be a little more specific on what we're talking about. But as they said, they don't want to let a crisis go to waste, but they don't want to accept the responsibility for what their getting in control of Congress did.

For 6 years, the first 6 years of President Bush's administration, the Republicans were in control. Did they do all the things they should have done? Did they do everything right? No. They absolutely did not. I was here for 2 of those years, and colleagues of mine did

our best to cut spending. And we actually did cut spending that cycle, but we never got any credit for it because of the news that came out about the elections and that kind of thing.

□ 2100

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. If the gentlewoman from Minnesota would yield.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I yield to the gentleman.

Ms. FOXX. This is my colleague from New Jersey, Scott Garrett.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I just want to touch on that one point as far as the perception of what the Democrats did and what the Republicans did. And I do this not for any partisan reasons because I do honestly believe that all of us here tonight actually believe, as the majority of the American public believes, that we are in a difficult situation; that people are hurting; that jobs are being lost, as your chart so adequately demonstrates there; and we don't need to be partisan about it, but we do need to set the record straight. And I will tell you this little story.

I have served here for 6 years now, and I have served on the Budget Committee. And I was here when the Republicans were in charge. And I, like you, was frustrated with the fact that many times during our tenure in office when Republicans controlled the House we were spending too much money. You and I voted against a lot of those expenditures, but as a party we were. And that's why in 2006 the American voters voted with their wallets, if you will, and said let's throw them out and let's put in a party that is campaigning on a platform of fiscal responsibility. And the reason I point out that I serve on the Budget Committee was because for 4 years when they were in the minority, they were saying a lot of the things that you and I agreed with and that you and I were saying, that we were spending too much money and were going in the wrong direction. So I perhaps naively hoped that in 2006 when they took the majority, they were going to put in practice much of what they said about the budget on their campaign trail in their rhetoric. But, you know, they didn't. They don't do it in 2006, and they didn't do it now in the 2008 election as well. And that's where we are right now.

However, I will credit them with being able to say that they have inherited the problems, but, of course, the facts don't speak to that as well. You're looking at a chart right there that says "jobs lost since the start of the Democrat majority," and even without my glasses on, I can see at the bottom of the XY-axis, it is January of 2007, and that is the starting point, and then the line goes off the charts. All you need is a little rocket on engine of how to succeed in business without really trying and just shoot up through the end over there, if you're familiar with that movie, and you would see that during their tenure, you lost the

jobs. But it's not only the fact that they didn't inherit the lost jobs because they were in control of the House and Senate. I don't have a little easel here, but let me just share this chart. I don't know whether you have one up there by you as well.

The other mantra that they will say in the media, and I've been on TV shows and radio shows, and the anchors will say, well, didn't the Democrats inherit all of this spending? Not exactly, not when you really look down to it. Let me give you about five quick points that I can run through here. This too is going back to the bottom of your XY-axis, January of 2007, when HARRY REID was in charge over in the Senate and Speaker PELOSI was in charge here as Speaker of the House. Let's see what has occurred from January, 2007, to where we are now, and this is March. I will just run through a few quick numbers.

The omnibus, most recent, fiscal year 2009 omnibus, \$410 billion. That didn't occur under Republican control. That occurred under Democrat control, spending. Stimulus 2, \$187 billion, again occurred under Democrat control and leadership. Auto bailout, of course, that too, \$14 billion, and that occurred again during Democrat control of the House and Senate. TARP, something that I have been on the floor hours upon hours talking and railing against how we're spending so much money there. First it was \$350 billion at the end of last year, and then they added another \$350 billion on that. People say we're bailing out Wall Street. We're just finding out now where some of that money is going. Apparently it's going to AIG executives, who made some of these great decisions that brought that company down to where it is today, in bonuses and what have you. So there's \$700 billion in TARP under Democrat control. The next one, pre-TARP loans, \$300 billion. And, finally, a stimulus bill, stimulus 1, that was July of last year, if I'm not mistaken, \$152 billion.

So you add them up, and I'm not going to do that in my head, but you have 400, 187, 14, 700, 300, \$152 billion. This all occurred during the time that Speaker PELOSI and HARRY REID were running things on the floor. They could have stopped, and it's easier in the Senate than here, but they could have stopped each and every one of these. They could have put any restrictions on each and every one of these. And maybe the gentlewoman from Minnesota would like to chime in on this one, and that is to talk about how they didn't put any restrictions on these points. They basically said here's \$700 billion, out the window, any way you want to spend it.

Ms. FOXX. And is it your memory also that President Obama, then Senator Obama, came back here off the campaign trail and put his blessing on the TARP bailout? It was my understanding that the Congress was controlled by the Democrats and that

President Obama, then Senator Obama, said, "I support it too." Is that your memory?

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. It's absolutely my memory. And the reason I remember it is because there were a few of us in the House who were raising our hand at that time and saying what are we spending \$700 billion on? The idea was the so-called purchase of toxic assets, which never did occur, and we said shouldn't there, A, be other alternatives considered; B, another implementation; and, C, shouldn't there be restrictions or strings, if you will, attached to some of this? All of that was dismissed and put aside. But you're absolutely correct. Senator Obama at that time supported it, as did the leadership of this House. Not only did they support it in this House, they pushed it through so quickly that none of us really had an opportunity. We never had any markup on this bill.

That's the other little frustrating thing about all of this, and the American taxpayer must be so frustrated with how, quote, "their government," and it is their government, works, how Washington works. We spend the money today, and then a day or a week or a month from then, we'll come back and say we are going to have a hearing on this and see exactly what we spent the money on. We spent \$350 billion, then \$700 billion without so much as a markup on it, which is, for folks who don't know, the way the bill goes through and you can say I want to put this in or take that out. Without so much as a markup, we spend this \$700 billion; then Congress can come back and says let's take a look at this. We saw that on TARP 1. We saw that on TARP 2. In essence, you could say we did that on the stimulus as well. We rushed right through how many pages? I'm forgetting.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It was 1,073 pages on the stimulus, which not one Member of Congress read. It wasn't released to the public until after midnight. I kept my staff here until 9 o'clock at night hoping we could have a chance to read this bill. I released them at 9. It didn't come on-line until after midnight. And had the Members of Congress stayed up all night and had we not taken one break and just read it, we would have had 23 seconds per page to read that. Not one person could read it.

I think there is a reason for it. We know why. There was no stimulus contained in the stimulus bill, nothing that would help small businesses. We even had essentially an admission of that this morning from President Obama because President Obama said now he has to have a plan for small business. There wasn't much of anything to speak of in the stimulus bill or in his budget bill for the rest of the year; so now he wants to have a new small business bill that is quite a bit of money. But what does it do? It funds the SBA, government. It funds more government. It has no nothing to do with tax reductions for small business.

You talk to any businessman. I'm a small businessman with my husband. We started a business from scratch, and I'll tell you what would help: Lower the tax rate for businesses. American businesses pay the second highest tax rate in the world, 34 percent. Imagine. You want to have certainty in the marketplace? Bring the corporate tax rate from 34 percent down to 9 percent.

The world right now is nervous. We think we're nervous in the United States. The world doesn't know where to invest. How do we know that the world is nervous? This weekend, and this is humorous, you have the specter of the Chinese communists lecturing the Obama administration, could you please stop spending so much money, President Obama? You're making me nervous. I'm worried that I am going to lose my Chinese debt pretty soon if you don't get a grip on your spending. Then you have European socialists saying to the Obama administration, gee, we don't want to spend all the money that you want us to spend.

Isn't it interesting that you have an American President now that's making the world nervous? We were all told that the President was going to bring the world together. We were going to have unity. All of our allies were going to be on board. Our allies are running like mice off a sinking ship saying we don't want any part of this out-of-control spending because our allies have been down that road themselves.

I'll tell you if this out-of-control spending would have worked, Japan would have been looking great for 10 years rather than this "lost decade." Europe would be the beacon, the envy of the world for investment. Instead, these are economies in shambles, and I think that's what the American people are worried about.

And I yield back to the gentleman from New Jersey. I think they're worried because they know. The American people get it that they're going to have to pay the bill.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. The American people get it, although we did that hear from our President here a couple of weeks ago. He said, "I get it." Unfortunately, I don't think he does. I think what he does get is the idea of a new movement he is leading, and that is a movement of redistribution of the wealth in this country, and basically he's doing it by burdening the responsible taxpayer, the responsible family, the responsible American, and putting it on the irresponsible ones. And it's sort of funny, and maybe "funny" isn't right word for this, but if you look at the budget documents that came out, the title of it is "An Era of Responsibility." This is anything but an era of responsibility.

And I will close with this: Just as I was hopeful in 2006 and 2007 for the Democrat leadership that they would be responsible in this area, I honestly was hopeful that when President Obama became the President that he

would fulfill his pledge that he would give the American public and all of us in Congress the opportunity to have 4 or 5 days actually to have any bill up on the Web site so they could see it and read it and comment on it otherwise. And you pointed out so accurately that in this case with an 1,100-page bill, it went through and no one saw it.

Ms. FOXX. I wanted to say some of the same things. I think that you and I and conservatives here in Congress really were hopeful that when the Democrats took control of Congress, when President Obama was elected, that they would keep their promises.

I agree with you. We wanted change. We wanted to cut spending. We wanted an era of different government. But all we have dealt with has been a series of broken promises. One promise after another.

You highlighted the issue of not having 5 days to read the bill. I think that that's an extremely important thing. The American people take our job seriously even if some of our colleagues don't take their job seriously, but they expect us to be here to vote and they expect us to read the bills. I am getting more and more questions from people, have you read the bills? I am being much more diligent about reading bills these days because of that. But all we have gotten are broken promises from the President and from the Democrats who are in charge. And I think that's really a sad situation.

Earmarks, for example, as our colleague from Minnesota pointed out, the bill that was passed the other day, the omnibus bill that was passed the other day, had 8,500 earmarks in it. Now, it may be that some of those are worthwhile projects, but we had a promise from our President that he would not sign any bill with any earmarks in it. He would go through line item by line item and take those out. That is another promise that's gone by the wayside. It's just not going to happen.

I think what we are seeing is the comment that he made without his teleprompter that he does believe in wealth transfer. I think we know now why he always wants a teleprompter in front of him because when allowed to speak off the cuff sometimes he says some things that really reveal what it is. The comment about "never let a crisis go to waste," of course, he didn't say that, his Chief of Staff said it. But the wealth transfer I think is something that the American people are beginning to understand.

Mrs. BACHMANN. You had mentioned that you felt that the President maybe was revealing his true colors in an off-the-cuff remark, but I have in front of me a copy of the President's budget. This is in black and white and anyone can read it. And this is page 5, "Inheriting a Legacy of Misplaced Priorities." I think the President is pretty clear about wealth transfer. He's been very clear. He's got it down in black and white. And I will quote from it. It says this: "While middle class families

have been playing by the rules living up to their responsibilities as neighbors and citizens, those at the commanding heights of our economy have not."

□ 2115

He is saying that people, the top end, have not been playing by the rules. Now, this is a canard that gets repeated over and over and over again, saying that people have not been paying their taxes, somehow it's been unfair and they have skimmed.

But as the gentleman from New Jersey knows, and that as our colleague who has joined us, Dr. BROUN, knows, I know the gentlelady from North Carolina is aware of this, the top 1 percent of income earners in the United States pay 40 percent of all the taxes in the United States.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Wait a minute, would you please repeat that for the people who are watching tonight so that they understand very clearly what you just said? Say it slow for us down south.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I know these Minnesota accents are a little tough to get through, but I also want to mention, just for point of reference, I am a Federal tax attorney. That's my background. That's what I do. Taxes are us.

But the top 1 percent of income earners pay 40 percent of all the taxes. The top 5 percent of income earners in the United States pay 60 percent of all taxes. The top 10 percent of all income earners pay 80 percent of all taxes.

Today in the United States, 40 percent of all Americans pay no taxes. And under President Obama's plan, 50 percent of all Americans will pay no taxes.

This weekend I was up in the northern part of my district, probably no one in this group made more than \$50,000 a year. All the people I spoke to were very upset with President Obama's plan. They were upset because they believe in tax fairness. They believe that every American should pay something, no matter what their income is, everybody should have something in on the deal.

Why? We all benefit from national defense. We all benefit from roads. We all benefit from corrections. All of us benefit. All of us should be paying it.

I will yield to our counterpart from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady.

I just came from a meeting where I heard some very interesting information about this taxing, this cap and tax, as we are calling it. The Democrats call it cap and trade.

But there is a video called "Apocalypse? No!" This was Christopher Lord, Christopher Monckton, one of the greatest outspoken people in this world, about how the global warming is just totally a farce, and he was talking about how it was going to hurt the poorest of people, not only in the United States but in the world. He was

begging for us, not as a Congress, as a government, for us to not put this cap and tax policy in place, because what it's going to do is it's going to put people out of work, it's going to lock them into a welfare state, which is going to hurt everybody's pocketbook long term. It's going to hurt small business, it's going to hurt the economy of not only the United States, but the world.

And he was begging us not to pass a cap and tax policy here in the United States and was saying that we in America need to do the right things. He was showing us graphs, and the lies, actually, that are being put out by a NASA scientist by the name of Mr. Hanson and others who are promoting this, now they talk about climate change.

But Lord was saying in the last 7 years we have actually had global cooling, global cooling. So they have stopped talking about global warming because we have had global cooling for the last 7 years. And this was in the normal variability of climate going up and down over the years.

And he was pointing out that sun spots, sun activity actually has more to do with the temperature than the CO₂ that has been emitted.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Yes, that's the solar flares, that's true.

As a matter of fact, in President Obama's budget, which he has already submitted, and which we are going to be taking up, and we are going to be voting on with appropriations, he has already included, as a baseline part of his budget, remember, his budget is historic.

It's so huge, the trillions of dollars are so huge we can't even get our arms around it, 646 billion in new taxes for the energy tax. I am sure that the gentleman and his constituents from Georgia, and I am sure that the gentlelady from North Carolina and her constituents, and the gentleman from New Jersey and his constituents would be interested in knowing, well, what does that work out for me? What does that mean that I am going to owe?

Well, people in the Sixth District of Minnesota, we need heat. We don't have a choice in wintertime. We have to turn our furnace on. This is very, very large concern, and I hope we have time to discuss it before the Democrats ask us to vote on this bill.

Because we are looking at a good \$4,000 per household in increased costs right away to pay for energy. Energy touches every part of our life, and we have got a graph up here that talks about what President Obama and the Democrats' tax plan will do.

Gas prices are going to go up. We all remember how much fun it was last July to pay over \$4 a gallon and we thought we were quick on our way to \$6 a gallon, \$8 a gallon? Well, remember that? Welcome back to it. That's called cap and tax. Welcome back to now seeing your home heating fuel, or in the case of Georgia, going up 40 percent. Can you imagine if your constituents

get an electric bill that will be 40 percent higher than what it was before?

Remember also what happened at the grocery store last summer when gas prices went up. The food prices went up. Why? Energy is in everything we eat.

Also if you go to Wal-mart, if you go to Target to buy something to wear. Energy is a component, a basic building block of everything.

I know that the gentlewoman from North Carolina has a great graph on this.

Ms. FOXX. Well, there is a chart here that showed that in addition to the high rate we are going to be paying for the cap and tax that the President has in his budget bill, what I wanted to point out and wanted to ask the gentlelady, it's my understanding again that the President promised that he was going to cut taxes for 95 percent of taxpayers; is that right?

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's right. That's what he said to the American people.

Ms. FOXX. And yet he left out saying he is going to raise taxes, though, a lot more for 100 percent of the people by instituting cap and tax.

Again, they like to call it cap and trade, but it's going to be cap and tax. Because as you so eloquently pointed out, it's going to raise the cost of energy for everybody in this country. And these people, I think they are just playing God.

I think they think that we human beings are going to offset the action of the sun. They think they are God, and they are going to be playing that role.

But I wanted to point out something tonight that we haven't said that I think is very important to point out, and I think our colleague from New Jersey reminded me this is something we should be saying, we know, as Republicans, that Americans are hurting. We know lots of people in our districts who are suffering as a result of the actions and the policies that have been taken, particularly in the last couple of years, and we don't want that hurt to go on.

So Republicans have been offering alternatives. The Democrats are accusing us of being the Party of "No." You know, that's a cute little thing that they can try to hang around our necks.

But I saw something today in Roll Call, can't take the credit for it, wish I could. I love it the way cartoonists can sometimes put in just a couple of words what we are thinking about, but there is a cartoon that says the Party of "O" and showing a picture of a donkey.

Now, I like that. We are not the Party of "No" because we have presented alternatives. Last year we presented alternatives when it came to energy. We had an all-of-the-above energy plan. We have an alternative to the budget.

We had an alternative to the stimulus, but we are being accused of being the Party of "No," but I think calling

them the Party of "O" is the appropriate thing to do, because they don't want to take responsibility. It's all a sham.

I tell you, again, this place reminds me of the emperor's new clothes. You know, there is this feeling that there is something out there, and it's going to take people who are willing to say the truth to tell the American people. Those stories you heard, those promises you were made, not true.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I just want to inject, actually, this economic situation that we are in is not too tough to figure out. It's real doable. We have a plan for it, and it's pretty simple.

We have a very high rate of tax on investments. If we would take that tax off, it's called capital gains, and zero it out and shout out from the house tops, for 4 years we will have a zero capital gains. You invest, take your money off the sideline, put it into the marketplace, any profit you get back, it's yours, 100 percent.

If we would have a zero capital gain, and if we would take our corporate tax rate from 34 percent down to 9 percent, cut everyone's marginal tax rate by 5 percent, even President Obama wants to increase the death tax. We say kill the death tax. That's not a good idea to have Uncle Sam reach into somebody's coffin after they have died and take 45 percent of what they own.

And get rid of that alternative minimum tax. You do that, next quarter you have an increase in GDP and jobs. Next quarter you have the Dow Jones up. Next quarter, you are going to see unprecedented levels of growth and unprecedented levels of investment in the United States from the world markets. This is pretty easy to solve.

But the Obama administration has taken a completely different view. They have taken the view of the French Revolution, which is to tax, tax, tax and spend, spend, spend. And now they have even taken another cue from them, off with their heads.

Because in their budget proposal, by their own language, the evil are the top 1 percent of income earners. And that's who they want to whack off their heads.

But the Wall Street Journal even had a great article that said this. It said you could confiscate the wealth of everyone making \$75,000 or more, it still wouldn't be enough to pay for all the spending that President Barack Obama wants to spend.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And there was a whole bunch of points I wanted to raise on the things you said right then, but I will go with the whole bunch of them.

On the middle point with regard to taxation of capital gains and what have you, it may sound, at first blush, that when you say, well, we have to address the capital gains situation in this country, we are talking about the rich out there. But when you realize that as across the board, Americans are hurting generally pretty much across the

board. A lot of people who are hurting are senior citizens, retirees, people who rely upon their pensions, whether it's union pension or private pension or otherwise.

They are saving to pay for college, what have you, they are seeing those funds go down. What can we do to try to turn that around?

I can't guarantee that it would turn around by tomorrow, but, as you said, pretty darn soon if you can get the trillions of dollars, as people say, are sitting on the sidelines and to start investing it. How can you do that?

You can do that in a couple of ways. You hit on the main ones by lowering the capital gains tax. Honestly, right now, people aren't saying I don't have any capital gains in this marketplace. But if you gave that incentive to say get into the market today, you will be tax free or have a lower rate, people would get off the side and they would get into the market immediately.

The other point that I just wanted to touch on, the other point here, I will spend 2 minutes on it. In the spending plan we have had in the last several weeks, actually several months now, we have had hundreds of billion of dollars. And this is a side note, other people are criticizing the other side of the aisle, how much debt the Bush administration added during their 8 years in office, it was something like \$4.6 trillion in his 8 years in office.

Just in 3 years, it's doubling. But, basically, remember these numbers, President Bush was in office for 8 years, he saw it go up about 4.6. President Obama has been in office for less than 2 months or something like that, a month, and you will see the debt go up by \$5.6 trillion in a 3-year period of time. It is incredible.

Part of that money, where is that money going to, deals with what the gentlelady from North Carolina was talking about before. And that is to the whole foreclosure situation, home pricing, what have you, and just follow with me on this.

Their argument is this, foreclosures are happening out there right now. We agree. That is causing problems across the board and it is causing a devaluation of people's homes across the board. Therefore, everyone must pay higher taxes, increase spending to try to prevent the foreclosure problem.

Now, you raised some of the avenues of what we could do to address foreclosure, and I can go into them as well. But I just want to give some facts, and I can do it with a picture. It's not a cartoon like Ms. Foxx had over there, actually had a picture. This was actually in USA Today, and what does this chart show, yes, it's pretty neat. It shows county-by-county the number of foreclosure actions, defaults and notices on auctions and repossessions per 1,000. Basically, this is a chart to show you where the problems are in this country.

□ 2130

So as people look at this and they think to the rhetoric that we hear from

the other side that, Oh, there are a lot of foreclosures. Yes, the rate has gone up in specific areas out here in California, Arizona, and certainly down here in Florida and up in your neck of the woods as well. But the vast majority of the country, fortunately, is not seeing the systemic problems of more than 60, more than 40, or even more than 20.

What does that mean? That changes the whole nature of the discussion as to how we go about fixing the problem. If the problem is in certain areas, then you don't need a specific blanket approach across the board in order to do it. You don't need to raise taxes on small businesses or families in my neck of the woods or in your neck of the woods to solve the problem.

You need to target some of the relief. More importantly, you need some of the Republican solutions, and I'll yield back to you on this, as the RSC, the Republican Study Committee, has already come out with, addressing capital gains, corporate taxes, section 179, and the like, as far as encouraging businesses and individuals to get their entrepreneurial spirit going again.

Those sort of things will address this problem in a way that will affect everyone and improve lifting up the prices again and getting it back to the marketplace where we want it to be.

So I just wanted to bring that one little chart to try to set the record straight as to where the foreclosure problem is in this country, how it is actually impacting only a segment of the economy, and what we need to do is address this in a widespread approach, as I'm sure you're addressing and I'm sure the gentleman from Georgia would also like to address as well.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Isn't it interesting that we are getting a blanket approach to about everything there is. I know the gentleman from Georgia had brought up the whole cap and tax thing, where we have to have a global warming tax, an energy tax, and everybody has to pay.

I thought it was interesting. I was back in the district over the weekend and I heard President Obama on the radio admitting essentially and saying that he wants to have this new energy tax passed, but he does not want implementation to occur until after 2012.

The reason why, he said, is because the economy is in such rough shape right now, businesses and the economy couldn't take it. And that's a general admission that this new energy tax is going to tank our economy. As a matter of fact, I had a conversation over the weekend with some people who are experts in this area, and they said this new energy tax literally has the potential of reducing American's standard of living 30 percent. Thirty percent reduction in standard of living because of this energy tax.

The worst feature of all is that it gives all the power to Washington, D.C., and takes it away from the individuals by putting this right of taxation in the Federal government's

hands. It's almost like an invisible tax that is put into every aspect of our lives. How do we ever get rid of it? How do we deal with it?

We are losing freedom by the boatload. That's the difference between, I think, what the Republican agenda is and the Democrat agenda. We believe in the Constitution. We believe in the first amendment, religious freedom, freedom of speech. We believe in the second amendment, the right to hold and bear arms. We believe in these important values. We believe in bedrock values for our country.

Marriage should be between a man and a woman; life should be protected from the moment of conception. We believe in these values. We believe in securing our Nation. We believe in taking on the enemy and winning and not being ashamed to win.

One thing we don't believe in are open borders. We don't believe that we should have open borders. We believe that we should deal with the drug problem that is coming across, and the illegal alien problem. And we believe in low taxes. We don't believe in high taxes. And our country will change forever if this new energy tax comes in.

Did the gentleman from New Jersey have something you wanted to say, or can I go to the gentleman from Georgia?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you for yielding. In fact, you're exactly right. I think one point I really want to reiterate about this cap and tax or cap and trade issue—whose going to be hurt the worst? It's going to be the poor people in this country because groceries will go up, the cost of medications will go up so the elderly and the sick and the people who are on fixed incomes will have more to pay for their drugs.

It's going to hurt the poorest and the people who are in the least position to be able to take care of paying this higher tax. And this cap and tax is going to hurt everybody. But it's going to cost jobs. So that is going to make more people unemployed. Not only that, as the chart says, President Obama's budget spends too much, it taxes too much, it borrows too much. But it also hurts the poor too much.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It hurts the poor and it hurts every segment of the economy.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Absolutely.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Because, remember, how did this start? The housing problem. Mr. GARRETT started talking about that with foreclosures. This hurts the housing segment where you showed on the chart—Florida, Arizona, California, Nevada. They have all sorts of trouble. What does President Obama want to do? He wants to take away the home mortgage interest deduction that will hurt people who have already made 30 years' worth of plan on their finances. They took this interest deduction out, and now it's going to be taken away from them. That is going to hurt the housing industry.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Absolutely. Every single policy that we hear from this administration is going to hurt the most vulnerable in our economic system.

Mrs. BACHMANN. It's raising taxes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. In fact, he wants to cap charitable giving in this country, which means people won't give to the Salvation Army, people won't give to the Red Cross.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Imagine what it will do to churches. Imagine—already churches are being decimated. There's a foundation in Minnesota that does good work all across the world helping people to learn how to hear. They have had donors already this year pull \$300,000 worth of donations because they are going to lose that donation.

We're going to see donations dry up to some of the best organizations; ministries, churches, synagogues. This is serious, what's happening right now.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield, down in my part of the country, down the in southeast, we had a couple of little hurricanes a few years back. Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

If you look at the Federal response and compare it to the private response, where FEMA came in. People are still living in trailer houses. The neighborhoods are still empty, businesses are still boarded. But where the private sector, churches, synagogues, and other private entities went in to help these people in need, communities are back functioning. People are back in their homes, they're back in their businesses. The communities are back functioning.

What that shows is that the private sector works a whole lot better than how the bureaucracy works when it has all of its encumbrances. How it crawls slowly and how it cannot really respond.

Now, we have an administration that wants to take money away from those entities that work the best to help people. I just don't understand it.

We have, as Republicans, we have solutions. We are not just the Party of "No," as Ms. FOX was saying. We have presented solution after solution after solution.

Unfortunately, on the Wall Street bailout, President Bush and his Democratic Treasury Secretary, Hank Paulson, wouldn't consider our proposals. Our proposals were to cut the capital gains tax. That would even bring a lot of money offshore into America and free up a lot of capital so banks could start loaning to banks again. Banks could loan to people again. We had other solutions that President Bush and Hank Paulson wouldn't consider.

Since then we have had proposal after proposal that this House, the Senate leadership, as well as President Obama will not consider anything that we bring forward, which, actually, every single solution that we bring forward will help small businesses, it will create jobs.

Just in Georgia, the proposal that we had on the stimulus would have created twice the number of jobs—73,000 new jobs above what the Democrats say that they hope to save or create, using their own rules.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman would yield, the jobs that are being created are new government jobs. They aren't new jobs in the private sector. They're government jobs that will somehow have to be continued and sustained.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. We would have created 73,000 more jobs in Georgia alone, under the Republican proposal, at half the cost. And we would not have borrowed any money at all. We would not have borrowed from our grandchildren like the stimulus bill or "non-stimulus" bill did.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the gentleman would yield, the cost of these jobs in the stimulus were easily \$300,000 per jobs. Some of these jobs were \$650,000 per job that they created.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I was just going to raise that point. As I am standing here listening to your facts, I'm looking down at the floor at the well and I see President Obama's budget and the three points that are a takeaway from tonight: Spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

It spends too much of our current hard-earned dollars that everybody has to work so hard to earn; it taxes too much on the American family and the small business and the farmer; and it borrows too much from our children and our grandchildren because they will be the ones who actually pay for all this.

On the spending side of the equation, I know it's hard to get your hands around some of these numbers sometimes. You just did when you gave the number. First it was 2 million, then it was 3 million, then it was 4 million jobs that this administration said they were going to save. Whichever number it is, if you add it all up and divide it out, you're right, it comes to around \$300,000 per job that they're going to be spending to save.

But it's a heck of a lot of people in my district, and I'm sure even more down in Georgia, who would love to have a \$300,000 job, even if it is only for a week, a month, or half a year. That's the type of job, by the way, that the government's creating—short-term job. These are not careers.

Once this job screwing in light bulbs, which was one, or painting a fence, or another, once that job is done, that job is done.

So on the spending side of the equation, and you were alluding to this point before, what it means is we are getting to the point where around over a quarter of all the growth and wealth of this country—GDP, gross domestic product—all the growth and wealth, over 27 percent is going to be sucked right out of this country, across the borders, as my picture here of the

United States, and brought right here to Washington or this body and all the bureaucrats to spend however they want to.

Is that what Americans want—more than a quarter of the wealth of this country to be spent right here as opposed out of their own pockets?

And taxing too much. You hit the numbers before as far as the tax rates and how it's going to hit on the families and the budgets. And the last one on borrowing too much, the debt of this country, again, it's impossible to wrap your hands around these things, but the debt of this country, the public debt will reach 58.7 percent of the GDP this year, and eventually rise to two-thirds of GDP in a couple of years.

Last time it was like that was in early 1950s after the war, and what have you, and it's been on a steady decline ever since even then. Charts show it's a rocket ship going right back up again, all in the last 3 months and projected over the next 10 years.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield? The sad thing is our children and grandchildren are going to live at a lower standard. Their standard of living is going to be lower than ours today because they are going to be saddled with this huge debt.

You cannot borrow and spend your way into prosperity. In fact, our President has, if you all remember, came and told the Republican conference that he wasn't going to make the same mistake that Franklin Delano Roosevelt made when FDR got scared and quit spending. Our President said he was going to continue to spend. And it's just wrong. That policy during the Depression did not get us out of that Depression.

Warren Buffet just last week said he thinks we've been pushed off the edge and our economy is heading into a very severe depression or a very severe recession. And we may well be. I hope and pray that we aren't.

But, I know this. Every single thing that this administration and the leadership in this House and this Senate have proposed is going to hurt our economy. It's going to deepen the recession, it's going to prolong it, and may push us into a severe depression.

We keep hearing this is the worst economic time since the Great Depression. No, this is the worst time since Jimmy Carter and those failed policies. What our President has done is he's bought into that philosophy, that Keynesian economic policy, which is socialism. That's exactly what he's bought into.

In fact, the way I have described it in some floor speeches is that we have a steamroller of socialism being shoved down the throats of the American people. It's going to strangle the American economy and it's going to slay the American people economically. And it's going to.

That steamroller of socialism is being driven by NANCY PELOSI and HARRY REID. We have got to stop it be-

cause it's going to hurt the poor people in this country. It's going to hurt the small businessmen and women in this country. It's going to hurt the most economically disadvantaged in this country.

We have policies that we are proposing that will actually help small businesses, that will create jobs. It will create paychecks instead of welfare checks. That's exactly what we are trying to promote, is giving people a paycheck instead of a welfare check.

□ 2145

Mrs. BACHMANN. We haven't even talked yet about socialized medicine. We talked a little bit about cap and tax. We haven't even talked about socialized medicine. Find me one model anywhere in the world where socialized medicine has delivered better care at a cheaper cost. You want to talk about tax increases, socialized medicine will break the bank in the United States, because now President Obama even voted for the SCHIP bill, which we all know will now for the first time swing the door wide open for illegal aliens. I know one thing, the people in my district are not interested in paying for the health care for illegal aliens that are coming across our border to be yet one more magnet to bring people in that should come here legally. That is a very real concern that we are addressing, and that is why I think people are so concerned right now about what they are seeing on the taxing climate.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And health care issues, and we have a doctor here with us tonight, is obviously something we are all concerned about. We know too many people who are in small businesses who just say, I just can't afford to buy insurance for my employees. We know too many individuals who are not working right now, and they say they cannot afford to pay for the health insurance costs, not because doctors charge too much, and we have a doctor right here, but just because of the nature and the system that we have in place.

The system we have right now, again, to get back to the facts, we do not have a free market health care system in this country; we have a government-regulated monopolized system in this country. But we do agree, the three of us here, I believe, without putting words in your mouth, that we do have a problem with health care affordability for a vast majority of Americans, and we do need to address that. But you do not address that, as is done in President Obama's budget, which spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much, by putting in placeholders of \$634 billion, which we do not have today, which goes to point three, borrows too much, that \$634 billion to pay for our health care today, which will basically come from our kids and our grandkids. We do not solve the affordability issue by simply spending more money and taxing more

money. You do it by ways that I know the good doctor has addressed on this floor before, by reforming the system, getting out inefficiencies in this system, providing for the competition on various levels under the system, to basically overhauling the system to make sure that health care is available to every American citizen, young and old alike. We have talked about that on the floor before. We need to do that. Spending, taxing, and borrowing is not going to fix the health care system.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Let me tell you about one government regulation that came in to the health care system when I was practicing medicine down in rural South Georgia to show you and just give you a picture of how much government regulation increases the cost for all of us.

I had a small automated lab with quality controls, because when I did tests I wanted to make sure that the tests were appropriate and that they gave good results so that I could treat my patients in the best way. Well, Congress passed a bill that was signed into law called the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act, CLIA. If a patient came in to see me and had a red, sore throat and I want to find out if they had a bacterial infection or a viral infection, I would do a CBC. It cost \$12 and I could do it in 5 minutes. CLIA shut down my lab. I had to send them to the hospital. It cost \$75 and took 2 to 3 hours. That is with just one government regulatory burden.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WELCH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and March 17 on account of attending a Vermont health care summit.

Mr. BOUSTANY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending funeral services for Charles Boustany, Sr.

Mr. DREIER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and March 17 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, March 17 and 18 on account of family business.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and

extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 23.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 23.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, March 17, 18 and 19.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, March 17.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, March 17.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 39. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93-531, commonly known as the "Bennett Freeze"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 338. An act to amend the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held

in trust and to provide for the conduct of certain activities on the land; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KAY A. KING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 29 AND FEB. 3, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kay A. King	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00	(³)					438.00
	1/30	2/01	Argentina		698.00	(³)					698.00
	2/01	2/03	Panama		592.00	(³)					592.00
Committee total					1,728.00						1,728.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

KAY A. KING, Mar. 3, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JANICE MCKINNEY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 22, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Janice McKinney	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.00	(³)					699.00
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		384.00	(³)					384.00
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica			(³)					650.00
Committee total											1,733.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

JANICE MCKINNEY, Mar. 5, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, THOMAS W. ROSS, JR., HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 21, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Thomas W. Ross, Jr.	2/16	2/21	Peru		1,214.00		2,498.00				3,712.00
Committee total											3,712.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

THOMAS W. ROSS, Jr., Mar. 2, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO KUWAIT, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND BELGIUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 4 AND FEB. 9, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Hon. John McHugh	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Hon. Tom Latham	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Michael Sommers	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Kevin Smith	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Steve Stombres	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Rob Collins	2/05	2/07	Kuwait		950.00	(³)					950.00
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(³)					

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO KUWAIT, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND BELGIUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 4 AND FEB. 9, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. John McHugh	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. Tom Latham	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Michael Sommers	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Kevin Smith	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Steve Stombras	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Rob Collins	2/06	2/06	Iraq			(3)					
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. John McHugh	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Tom Latham	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Michael Sommers	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Kevin Smith	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Steve Stombras	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Rob Collins	2/07	2/08	Afghanistan		75.00	(3)					75.00
Hon. John A. Boehner	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Eric Cantor	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. John McHugh	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Tom Latham	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Hon. Jo Bonner	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Michael Sommers	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Kevin Smith	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Steve Stombras	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Rob Collins	2/08	2/09	Belgium		394.00	(3)					394.00
Committee total					15,609.00						15,609.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Anthony Weiner	12/20	12/21	Kuwait		167.00						167.00
	12/23	12/24	Germany		321.00						321.00
Committee total					488.00						488.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN CONYERS, Jr., Chairman, Mar. 13, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

861. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program and Average Crop Revenue Election Program (RIN: 0560-AH84) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

862. A letter from the Lieutenant General, US Army Director, Army National Guard, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

863. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report listing all repairs and maintenance performed on any covered Navy vessel in any shipyard outside the United States or Guam during the preceding fiscal year, pursuant to Section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

864. A letter from the Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's

final rule — Processing of Deposit Accounts in the Event of an Insured Depository Institution Failure (RIN: 3064-AD26) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

865. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the System's "Major" final rule — Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices [Regulation AA; Docket No.: R-1314] received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

866. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

867. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Acting Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle program report for FY 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-58; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

868. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; 2003 State Strategy and 2003 South Coast

Plan for One-Hour Ozone and Nitrogen Dioxide [EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0677; FRL-8770-1] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

869. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Source Performance Standards; Supplemental Delegation of Authority to the State of Wyoming [R08-WY-2008-0001; FRL 8770-2] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

870. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Correction [EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0884; FRL-8771-1] received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

871. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations, (Indianapolis, Indiana) [MB Docket No.: 08-122 RM-11440] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

872. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Implementation of the DTV Delay Act [MB Docket No.: 09-17] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

873. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), section 204(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

874. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

875. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting correspondence from John O'Donoghue, T.D., Ceann Comhairle of the Lower House of the Lower House of Parliament of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

876. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Report on the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue Meeting, pursuant to Public Law 107-228, section 702; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

877. A letter from the Chief Operating Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home, transmitting the Home's Annual Performance and Accountability Reports for 2007 and 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

878. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's FY 2008 Competitive Sourcing Activity Report, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, section 647(b) of Division F; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

879. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Human Capital Mgt, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

880. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's sixth annual report on implementation by Federal agencies of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), pursuant to Title III of Public Law 107-347; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

881. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Marine Recreational Fisheries of the United States; National Saltwater Angler Registry Program [Docket No.: 071001548-81392-02] (RIN: 0648-AW10) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

882. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan [Docket No.: 080407531-8840-02] (RIN: 0648-AW68) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

883. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in

the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XM87) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

884. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater Than or Equal to 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XN01) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

885. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No.: 0808041043-9036-02] (RIN: 0648-AX16) received March 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

886. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Money Penalties: Certain Prohibited Conduct; Technical Correction [Docket No.: FR-5081-C-03] (RIN: 2501-AD23) received March 11, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

887. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts [Release Nos.: 33-9009; 34-59449; IA-2845; IC-28635] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

888. A letter from the Chairman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — SOLID WASTE RAIL TRANSFER FACILITIES [STB Ex Parte No.: 684] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

889. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure: Safe Harbors for Sections 143 and 25 (Rev. Proc. 2009-18) received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

890. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue Foreign Tax Credit Generator Directive — Revision 1 [LSMB Control No.: LSMB-04-0109-002] received March 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

891. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Activities, Progress, and Plans," pursuant to Public Law 109-58, section 811(a); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science and Technology.

892. A letter from the Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that the Office of Management and Budget has approved the Department's recommendation that 1.7 million courses of smallpox antivirals be procured for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) using the Special Reserve Fund, as authorized by the Project BioShield Act of 2004; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 1388. A bill to reauthorize and reform the national service laws; with an amendment (Rept. 111-37). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TOWNS: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1323. A bill to require the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations regarding the use of information control designations, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-38). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 1509. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a standard home office deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 1510. A bill to amend the lead prohibition provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to provide an exemption for certain all-terrain vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 1511. A bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. CAMP, Mr. MICA, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 1512. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona (for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mrs. HALVORSON):

H.R. 1513. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 1514. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the juvenile accountability block grants program through fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1515. A bill to assist courts in the States and territories with improving the administration of justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MACK, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. WEXLER):

H.R. 1516. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1517. A bill to allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. MASSA):

H.R. 1518. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a higher rate of tax on bonuses paid by businesses receiving TARP funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. GRAVES):

H.R. 1519. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 1520. A bill to improve Federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection, and use of Federal real property, by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop a multipurpose cadastre of Federal real property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate, and out-of-date Federal land inventories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona,

Mr. COHEN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COBLE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. BERRY):

H.R. 1521. A bill to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1522. A bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

H.R. 1523. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1524. A bill to allow flood insurance coverage under the national flood insurance program for new structures designed to protect public safety that are located in special flood hazard zones; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1525. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to consider reconstruction and improvement of flood protection systems when establishing flood insurance rates; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 1526. A bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1527. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a higher rate of tax on bonuses paid by certain businesses owned by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1528. A bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1529. A bill to permit expungement of records of certain nonviolent criminal offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1530. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 1531. A bill to facilitate the export of United States agricultural products to Cuba as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, to remove impediments to the export to Cuba of medical devices and medicines, to allow travel to Cuba by United States legal residents, to establish an agricultural export promotion program with respect to Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on

Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1532. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations on the award of the congressional medal of honor; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1533. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to specify the minimum rank requirement for officer serving as Chief of the Navy Dental Corps to correspond to Army and Air Force requirements for the heads of their dental corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1534. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to jointly carry out a study on the use of thorium-liquid fueled nuclear reactors for naval power needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1535. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study evaluating and comparing the effectiveness of programs designed to diagnose, treat, and prevent post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1536. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a fellowship program regarding neuroscience; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1537. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct studies regarding alternative models for acquisition and funding of technologies supporting network-centric operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 1538. A bill to repeal the small business competitiveness demonstration program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 1539. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to add certain Armed Forces organizations that are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the list of organizations eligible for donations of personal property through State agencies; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, which banned the slave trade in the British Empire, allowed for the search and seizure of ships suspected of transporting enslaved people, and provided compensation for the freedom of slaves; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety with a global target to reduce by 50 percent the predicted increase in global road deaths between 2010 and 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HILL:

H. Res. 245. A resolution congratulating Miss Katie Stam for being crowned Miss America 2009 and thanking the participants in and supporters of the Miss America Competition for their contributions to young women's lives and communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Res. 246. A resolution expressing support for a National Week of Reflection and Tolerance; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia):

H. Res. 247. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 22, 2009, as "National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SUTTON:

H. Res. 248. A resolution honoring Glenn "Jeep" Davis for being one of the greatest Olympic hurdlers, an active member of his community, and life-long teacher; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. RANGEL introduced a bill (H.R. 1540) for the relief of Kadiatou Diallo, Sankerala Diallo, Ibrahim Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, and Mamadou Pathe Diallo; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. BACA, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. WU.

H.R. 22: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TURNER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HODES, Mr. CAO, Mr. KIND, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 23: Mr. SPACE, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 24: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. INGLIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SHULER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. CULBERSON, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 49: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 52: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 55: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 82: Mr. HERGER and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 101: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 104: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 118: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 154: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 155: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 176: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 179: Mr. STARK and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 181: Mr. SPACE, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 205: Mr. TURNER and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 211: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 265: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 270: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 272: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 275: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 293: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 294: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 296: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 297: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 305: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 327: Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 333: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 336: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 389: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 422: Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 653: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 731: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 734: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 744: Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 775: Ms. FALLIN and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 847: Mr. PIERLUISI and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 927: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 932: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 980: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 983: Mr. BILBRAY.

H.R. 997: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1016: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1017: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1020: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 1044: Mr. HINCHEY and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 1050: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LATTI, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1054: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1055: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1069: Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 1090: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 1098: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 1100: Mr. FILNER and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1136: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. CAMP, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1150: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1159: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1180: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1189: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 1190: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1203: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WAMP, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DINGELL.

H.R. 1204: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1207: Mr. WAMP and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1209: Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. DENT, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. FOX, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CAO, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1211: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1214: Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1240: Mr. CAMP, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1245: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 1256: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FALCOMA VAEAGA, Mr. HODES, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1265: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

H.R. 1280: Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 1295: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 1319: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SPACE, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. HILL, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1324: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MASSA, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1325: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1326: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1327: Mr. KIRK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. DRIEHAUS, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 1341: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1362: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1377: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1388: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WU, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1400: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1410: Mr. WU.

H.R. 1429: Ms. NORTON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1441: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1457: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1458: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 1460: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 1462: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1476: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1491: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1499: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. WOLF, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. SUTTON.

H.J. Res. 26: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Con. Res. 24: Mr. SERRANO.

H. Con. Res. 36: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Con. Res. 55: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H. Res. 109: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H. Res. 156: Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. Res. 175: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 178: Mr. SPACE and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 191: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 200: Mr. CAO.

H. Res. 207: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H. Res. 209: Ms. KOSMAS.

H. Res. 211: Mr. WU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr.

CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 232: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 234: Mr. WOLF, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. WATSON, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BACA, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 236: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Res. 241: Mr. HIMES, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Res. 242: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. HONDA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER of California, or a designee, to H.R. 1388 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.